FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
1864-1978
DEDICATORIAL YEAR

"A Past To Remember
A Future To Mold"

BAPT
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Goldsboro, North Carolina

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FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
1864 - 1978
— DEDICATORIAL YEAR —

Theme: "A Past to Remember — A Future to Mold"

HARRIS and POPLAR STREETS
GOLDSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
Rev. Isaac B. Horton, Pastor

PREFACE

The Purpose of this Souvenir Book is to record the people whose contributions brought life to the First African Baptist Church as they protrayed the past, the present, and their hopes and dreams for the future.

We have reached a memorable, joyous, and significant milestone in the History of First African Baptist Church.

It seems appropriate under the circumstances to record a true story that tells of the contributions of the departed faithful souls, as well as the living members who have brought us thus far in the heat of today. We cannot tell it all, but we feel that through these pages you will understand it better by and by.

We are indebted to many individuals for help given in various forms. First, we must acknowledge the inspiration and spiritual zest given by our Pastor, Rev. Isaac B. Horton.

We are especially grateful to Mr. John H. Wooten, Sr., and Mrs. Ernestine W. Wooten for aiding in editing, organizing the "Ads," proof-reading, and helping to arrange the illustrative materials for the Souvenir Book. They both have worked beyond the call of duty.

We thank Reverend H.V. Brown and Mrs. Doris P. Cherry who aided in writing the History of First African Baptist Church. Mrs. Cherry worked beyond the call of duty to help in research of the "Old Church Records," to aid in re-writing the History.

Special tribute is given to Mrs. Gwendolyn Vann, who performed wonderfully with the Patrons' Committee in soliciting Patrons.

Sincere appreciation is due to Mrs. Ernestine W. Bostic for her untiring work with the Program Committee, Steering Committee, and Patrons' Committee.

We are grateful for the aid from Mrs. Doris L. Brown, who helped to alphabetize the

Patrons' list and proof-read much of the material. Also, to Mrs. Dorothy W. Hardy who aided in proof-reading, and Mrs. Eloise Larkin who assisted in organizing materials.

Special thanks is extended to the "Secretarial-Typists" who worked many hours: Mesdames Elizabeth Matthews, Rose B. Marks, G. Patricia Stokes, Gwendolyn Vann, Thelma C. Horton, Frances O. Petteway, and Miss Nancy Wooten.

We wish to sincerely acknowledge the aid provided by the senior members, middle-aged, and the youth who related orally historical facts recorded in the Souvenir Book. We will name a few who gave vital information, namely: Mrs. Ada Moore, Mrs. Katie Dortch, Mrs. Navie Holmes, Mrs. Hettie Taylor, Mrs. Bertha Davis, Mr. James G. White, Miss Elna Sasser, and the late Mrs. Cora Sampson, Mrs. Eloise Pate, and Mrs. Goldie M. Bethea.

To all of these and others not specifically mentioned here, we extend our grateful appreciation for their help and encouragement.

We wish to express deep appreciation to the Churches, Fraternities, Civic Organizations, Merchants, all Businesses, and Friends, near and far, who donated for the Memorial Pages, Complimentary Ads, and Patrons.

May this book help us to continue the vital role of enriching the spiritual lives of our people everywhere. For the privilege that is ours to share in the work of "Kingdom Building" through fellowship of Christ, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve. "MAY GOD BLESS YOU."

For the Souvenir Book Committee:

Theresa S. Bland

Theresa S. Bland, Chairperson

Charles I. Bland

Charles I. Bland, Co-Chairperson

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LIBRARY

I. B. Horton, Minister
424 Warsaw Court
Phone: 734-2936

Frances O. Petteway
Clerk

Thelma C. Horton
Secretary

First African Baptist Church

John M. Mathews, Chairman
Deacons
Phone: 735-8762

E. A. Brown, Chairman
Trustees
Phone: 735-3418

Deacons: C. I. Bland, Earl Whitted, Sr., James G. White, Sr., E. L. Smith, H. F. Cofield, Thomas G. Thompson, Thomas W. Hardy, Richard Coley, V. Lee Harris, Robert (Bob) Swinson, John H. Wooten, Sr.

Trustees: O. R. Stovall, H. P. Holley, Dennis Coley, Earl Whitted, Jr., William N. Foy, John R. Jones, Sr., Zeb Langston, Jr.

408 W. Pine Street

Phone: 734-4935

Goldsboro, N. C. 27530

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated with our deepest gratitude and affection to Deacon Charles I. Bland, and Deaconess Theresa S. Bland whose industry, devout, and generous religious services speak for the ways of the "Good Life."

Rev. Isaac B. Horton
and
The First African Baptist
Church Family

November, 1978

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 1978

Dear Mr. Horton:

President Carter has asked me to extend warm greetings to all who attend the dedication ceremonies for the new First African Baptist Church of Goldsboro.

This is an important milestone in the history of your Church, and the President commends the perseverance and spirit of cooperation which led to the completion of your project.

He sends his best wishes to you for the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Eliska Coolidge

Eliska Hasek Coolidge
Director
Office of Presidential Messages

The Reverend I. B. Horton
First African Baptist Church
408 West Pine Street
Goldsboro, NC 27530

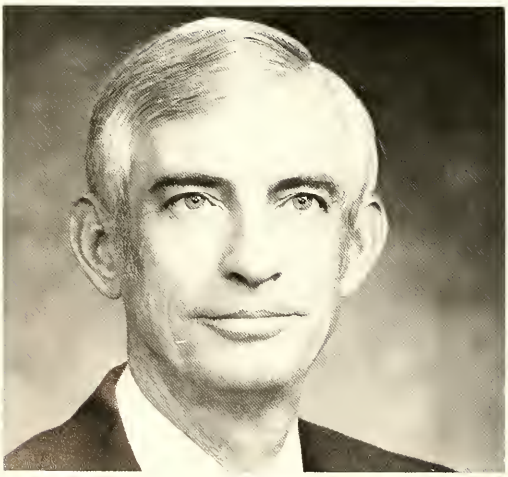
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

CHARLIE WHITLEY
3RD DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA

TO MY FELLOW CHRISTIANS AND BAPTISTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF GOLDSBORO:

The dedication of a new church building constructed to the glory of God is always an occasion of religious and historical significance.

I am happy to join with other friends and fellow Christians in the hope and the expression that this building will be used and will serve to glorify God and serve his purposes.



Sincerely,

Charlie Whitley

Charles O. Whitley
Member of Congress

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RALEIGH 27611

JAMES B. HUNT, JR.
GOVERNOR

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to extend congratulations to the officers and members of the First African Baptist Church as they observe Dedication Week. Since 1864, the founders and members of this church have provided a place to worship and a program to help the people of Goldsboro and Wayne County to a better way of life.

The people of this community have been fortunate in the leadership given by the members of this church over its entire history. Their vision and hard work have been responsible for a better way of life for the entire community.

As you observe your Dedication Week, you have my best wishes for the years ahead.

My warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

GOLDSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

A BICENTENNIAL CITY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

BEN C. STRICKLAND

April 6, 1978

To Members of the First African
Baptist Church

On behalf of the Board of Aldermen and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt congratulations to the members of the First African Baptist Church on the dedication of their new home. February 12, 1973 was truly a dark day in the history of Goldsboro when the City's first black church was ravaged by fire. Under the able leadership of Reverend Isaac B. Horton, the support of the First African Baptist congregation and interested citizens, a program was started to rebuild a new facility. It is often said that the good Lord works in many ways. Out of the ashes of the First African Baptist Church has sprung one of the most modern religious institutions in the City of Goldsboro. This truly exemplifies what can be accomplished through a people's strong belief in God.

Sincerely,

Ben C. Strickland
Mayor

lmr

Felicitations On A Great Occasion

The officials of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention join in felicitating the officials and constituents of historic First African Baptist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina on the occasion of their Dedicatorial Services.

Through the years First African Baptist Church has been regarded as "The Mother Church" of Black Baptists of North Carolina; and, all of us are honored to pause on this notable occasion; and, the congregation is blessed with your current leadership, the Rev. I. B. Horton and family.

Please be assured that the officials of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention and our numerous selfless missionaries in foreign areas join in our united prayers that the Eternal God will continue to crown your heroic mission through the years to follow.

With sincerest wishes,
Sincerely yours,

Wendell C. Somerville,
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES WITH GENERAL BAPTISTS
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Corbin L. Cooper, Director
Rebecca Scott, Office Secretary

April 21, 1978

Dr. I. B. Horton, pastor, and the members
of First African Baptist Church, Goldsboro

Dear Friends:

You have come a long way from the ashes of your previous church building. God has sustained and given you courage through trying times. You rose from disappointment and uncertainties to enter a beautiful new edifice for worship and Christian education. You are to be commended.

We who serve in Cooperative Ministries wish to salute you for a job well done. You have not finished your course, but you are fighting a good fight.

May God continue to bless you as you serve Him in spirit and in truth.

Sincerely yours,

Corbin Cooper

Corbin Cooper

CC:rs

Cecil Ray/General Secretary-Treasurer • Howard Ford/Director/Division of Mission Ministries
Box 26508/301 Hillsborough Street/Raleigh, N.C. 27611/919 833-1605

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.
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REV. J. C. HARRIS
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

DR. J. R. MANLEY,
3RD VICE PRESIDENT

REV. W. B. LEWIS,
SECRETARY

April 29, 1978

First African Baptist Church
Rev. I. B. Horton, Pastor
424 Warsaw Court
Goldsboro, North Carolina 27530

Dear Pastor Horton, Officers, and Members:

The officers and 355,000 members of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., commend, compliment, and congratulate you for constructing such a magnificent House of Worship as well as other significant facilities.

The Black Christian Church has played a positive role in the moral, educational, civic, and economic development and growth of the community. The Black Church has been the central meeting place for the major political and civil rights movements in this country.

Moreover, the First African Baptist Church of Goldsboro was the birthplace of our Convention over a century ago. Your contributions have been immeasurable to the Convention and the nation.

God's blessings and benedictions upon your dedication.

Sincerely,

Joy J. Johnson

Give The Lord's Way — The Unified Way For Missions Monthly

SHAW UNIVERSITY

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27602

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 1, 1978

The Reverend Isaac Horton
First African Baptist Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Dear Reverend Horton:

You, as pastor, the officers and members of the First African Baptist Church need to be commended on your achievement of erecting a new edifice to the glory of God.

Shaw University joins with the many other well-wishers in congratulating you. As you dedicate the building we pray for a rededication by the congregation to the service of God.

We commend the pastor for the leadership that he has provided, and the congregation for its cooperation and loyalty.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Fleming

John W. Fleming
Interim President

JWF:mf

MEMBER UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND

REVEREND ISAAC BAYNES HORTON
A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Reverend Isaac Baynes Horton, the third of five children born to Reverend Avery and Mrs. Leasie Dunn Horton, was born June 4, 1928 in the Raleigh Township, North Carolina. He married the former Miss Thelma Lea Compton, Burlington, North Carolina, and they are parents of six children: Isaac Byron III, Thelma Linette, Miriam Bernardeane, Marian Bernardette, Esther Maria, and Joseph Samuel; whose ages are 21, 20, 16, 16, 11, and 7, respectively.

Receiving his former and high school education in the Public Schools of Raleigh, he earned the A.B. degree from Shaw University, Raleigh, 1955, and the B.D. degree from the Shaw Divinity School in 1958. He is presently studying towards the Doctor of Ministry degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Being converted at First Baptist Church, Raleigh in 1939, he was licensed to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, October 8, 1952, and Ordained by the Wake Baptist Association, October 29, 1959. For twenty-six years, he has been active as a religious education instructor, pastor, executive in the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and has served as President and Chairman of many Religious and Civic groups. Presently, Rev. Horton is editor of The Baptist Informer, the Official Voice of 355,000 Black Baptists of North Carolina.

PASTORAL GREETINGS

A new and greater First African Baptist Church has risen out of the smoldering ashes of the devouring fire, February 12, 1973, which destroyed our former Worship Center. From the agony of that snowy terrifying day, we have traveled through many dreadful and wonderful events, arriving at last to share the hope of this sunny day of dedication. All praises be to our God, whose gracious favor has enabled us to assemble here today with thanksgiving in our hearts.

The First African Baptist Church was born in 1864, a time characterized by crisis and struggle. The one hundred and fourteen years through which the Church has lived is replete with challenges of every nature. But these noble people have risen up in each instance to meet the challenge in faith and courage; the results which followed have been success and victory. The credit for these accomplishments does not belong to any single individual, even though there have been individuals who gave outstanding leadership and who made extreme sacrifices. Yet, all of the people working together with God in trust and love, is the success-yielding factor. All Glory belongs to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because we have achieved all things through his strength.

Numerous individuals have helped us in a variety of ways and we acknowledge our indebtedness for these contributions.

Although we pause to rejoice today because we have come to this mile-stone, our work is not completed. The fatal work of sin is evident every where — inside the Church community and through society. Therefore, the redeeming ministry of God in Jesus Christ yet awaits His Church: to be preached, spread abroad, understood, received, and practiced. Together let this be our battle cry:

"Ne'er think the victory won,
Nor lay thine armor down;
The arduous work will not be done
'Til thou obtain the Crown.

Fight on, my soul, till death shall
Bring thee to Thy God;
He'll take thee at thy parting breath,
To His devine abode." (My Soul, Be On Thy Guard)

Your Faithful Servant in Jesus Christ,
Isaac B. Horton.

THE PASTORAL FAMILY

The Pastoral Family, composed of eight members, is a great asset to the First African Baptist Church and is a vital and effective support for the Pastor.

Mrs. Thelma Lea Compton Horton, wife, is a native of Burlington, N.C. and is the oldest daughter of Mrs. Ona B. Faucette Compton and the late Samuel Clarence Compton. She is a graduate of the North Carolina Sanatorium School of Nursing, McCain, affiliated with the St. Phillips School of Nursing, Medical College, Richmond, Virginia.

She serves the Church and its related auxiliaries in many capacities as teacher, leader, counselor and friend. She has been honored on several occasions for her outstanding contributions in community, civic and religious affairs, both locally and statewide.

Mrs. Horton serves as a member of the Executive Board and the Executive Committee, Chairlady of Public Relations and First Vice President of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C. As a speaker, she is in constant demand throughout the state for Woman's Day and Missionary Programs. As an instructor, she works diligently with leadership training conferences, workshops and institutes, locally and statewide.

Isaac Byron, III, age 21, was born in Raleigh, N.C. He is a senior at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, majoring in Chemistry. Byron continues to exemplify his leadership abilities in religious, civic, community and educational activities throughout the state.

His honors, awards and accomplishments are numerous. As a recipient of the Johnston Schol-

arship Award, he continues to use his talents to serve others wherever there is a great need. He was inducted into the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Order of the Grail and the Order of the Old Well. He was selected as "Outstanding Young Man of America" by the Jaycees and as the "Most Outstanding Central Committee Member of the Black Student Movement". He is a member of the Chancellor's Committee on Outstanding Speakers and the President of the North Carolina Black Student Coalition.

Thelma Linette, 20, was born in Columbus County, N.C. She is a junior at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, majoring in mathematics.

Linette has been very active in church and community affairs, devoting most of her time to missionary leadership. She has served as President of the Youth Missionary Department in the FAB Church and the Wayne County Missionary Union and was secretary of the Youth Missionary Department of District 8, Group 2, WBH&FMC. For three years, she exercised her artistic talents and served as editor of the Newsletter, the official organ of the State Youth Missionary Department.

She is very busy with her school activities, yet she still finds time to continue her ministry to the aged and infirmed.

Miriam Bernardeane, the oldest of identical twins, is 16 years old and was born in Columbus County, N.C. A junior at Goldsboro High School, she is engaged in many school and all church activities.

She is secretary of the Sunday School and Youth Missionary Department of the FAB Church, the Youth Missionary Department of the Wayne County Missionary Union and District 8, Group 2,

WBH&FMC. Bernardeane has also served as a junior counselor for the Youth Bible Camp at the J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Laurel Hill.

A lover of music, Bernardeane and her twin sister enjoy using their voices to "praise" God.

Marian Bernardette, 16, is a junior at Goldsboro High School, actively engaged in varied school and all church activities.

She is the president of the Youth Missionary Department of the FAB Church and the Wayne County Missionary Union and the second vice president of District 8, Group 2, WBH&FMC. Bernardette has also served as a junior counselor for the Youth Bible Camp.

Esther Maria, 11, was born in Goldsboro and is in the sixth grade. She continues to follow in the trend of the other family members in the exemplification of leadership abilities.

She has served as president of the Sunshine Choir and secretary of the Older Sunshine Band Girls' Missionary Group of the FAB Church. Esther is a Girl Scout and enjoys out-of-door activities. She has been recognized as one of the more academically talented pupils in her school and has participated in the Goldsboro City School Advancement School.

Joseph Samuel, 7, was born in Goldsboro and is in the second grade. He has been characterized as "all boy" with many qualities that will help him become a dedicated servant of God. He is dutiful in helping his father prepare for the Morning Worship Services at the school building where the services have been held since the burning of the Church.

The family as a whole enjoys Christian Ministry and participates each year in a variety of religious, community, educational and civic activities that carry them across many miles locally, statewide and nationally.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ISAAC, THELMA, AND THE FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

IN HONOR OF OUR FATHER AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER

April 16, 1886 — August 1, 1978

Mr. and Mrs. Avery T. Horton
Silver Springs, Md.

Mrs. Annie Horton Hooker
Raleigh, N.C.

Mr. and Mrs. George Croumer
(Miriam Horton)
Washington, D.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Jowers
(Paltine Horton)
Baltimore, Md.

Reverend Avery and the late Mrs. Leasie Webb Dunn Horton
Fiftieth Wedding Aniversary December 24, 1972

CONGRATULATIONS TO ISAAC, THELMA, AND THE FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

IN MEMORY OF OUR FATHER IN HONOR OF OUR MOTHER

Mr. Samuel Clarence Compton, Sr.
May 23, 1900 March 4, 1974

The Robert Thomases
(Mary E. Compton)
Durham, North Carolina

The Reginald Hemsleys
(Peggie B. Compton)
Camp Springs, Maryland

The William Vaughns
(Linda F. Compton)
Baltimore, Maryland

J. Howard Compton
Burlington, N.C.

Kelly Whyne Compton
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Ona B. Faucette Compton
Burlington, North Carolina
Fifty Years of Christian Service

CONGRATULATIONS FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH MAY GOD'S BLESSINGS CONTINUE TO ABIDE

Mrs. Elizabeth B. Brown Rev. H.V. Brown, Associate Pastor

Rev. and Mrs. Brown have been members of the First African Baptist Church some Fifty-four and Thirty-two years, respectively; during which time Rev. Brown served as Sunday School Teacher, Church Business Manager, and now as Associate Pastor; while Mrs. Brown is a member of the Senior Missionary Department, Chairman of the Social Concerns Committee and is Past Supervisor of the Junior Missionary Department. Rev. Brown is Retired Principal of Dillard High School while Mrs. Brown is Retired Home Economics Agent for Wayne County.

Their native homes are Henderson, Kentucky and Dafuskie Island, S.C. respectively.

Rev. Hugh V. Brown writes a religious article for the Goldsboro News Argus paper each week.

These articles which are sermons, with texts taken from the Bible serve as an inspiration for the adults and youth of the community.

Excerpts from one of his recent articles titled, "Honor Your Parents" was taken from Matthew 17:3-4 and 1st and 2nd Kings 2:1-12.

The story of Elijah, Elisha and Elijah admonishes us to so live as to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and urge them to Honor their Father and Mother and remember their Creator in the days of their youth.

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

Rev. Isaac B. Horton, Pastor; Mrs. Frances O. Petteway, Church Clerk; and Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews, Secretary.

GENERAL CHURCH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Left to right: Messrs: Eugene A. Brown, Atty. Earl Whitted, Jr. Dr. H.F. Cofield, and Dr. O.R. Stovall; Mesdames: Frances O. Petteway and Elizabeth W. Mathews.

The First African Baptist Church Roll

October 1, 1863

George Hooks	
Angelina Capps	
Chloe Morrisey	
Chloe Baker	
Esther Caroll	*Died*
Mary Hines	
Ammon Webb	
Dolly Burnett	
Mary Burnett	
Anise Exum	*Dismissed by letter March 30, 1864*
William Wade	
Sarah Washington	
Martha Suggs	
Harriett Wilcox	
Simon Morrisey	
Penney Fields	*Died*
Serena Dewey	
Peggy Privett	
George Washington	
Abram Baker	
Moses Carroll	
Rachell Hassell	*Profession and Baptism June 21, 1863*
Patience Essler	*Profession and Baptism June 21, 1863*
Kegiah Burnett	*Profession and Baptism June 21, 1863*
Winney Green	*Profession and Baptism September 25, 1863*
Milley Cogdell	
Charles Waitt Thompson	*Profession and Baptism March 30, 1866*
Lizzy Thompson	*Profession and Baptism October 18, 1866*
Amy Ford	*Profession and Baptism November 23, 1866*
John C. Privott	

HISTORY
THINGS WORTH KNOWING
HISTORICAL GLEANINGS OF
FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

IN THE BEGINNING:

During the Middle and late 19th century a new beginning for Negro spiritual worship emerged. Early groups of worshippers being organized all over the State often showed Negroes having membership and sharing services in white churches. These Negro members later emerged into whatever type of shelter they could find or afford for a sanctuary. Some of these emerging groups received assistance from their white friends.

First African Baptist Church originated through this pattern. It takes great pride in the honor of being one of the oldest churches, and the first Negro church in North Carolina. It is still considered the "Mother Church" of Eastern North Carolina's Black Churches.

FROM WHENCE OUR ORIGIN:

The White First Baptist Church of Goldsboro grew out of the first Sunday School in Wayne County organized by Mr. C.J. Nelson in 1840, and was reorganized into the church in 1843. Their first meeting house was located in Waynesborough, a town of about 150 people incorporated in 1787. Waynesborough was built on the north banks, near where Little River flows into the Neuse River. It moved two miles east and became Goldsboro in 1847. Likewise the White First Baptist Church moved and began to meet in the old Academy Building on John Street where they worshipped until 1858 when they erected their first church at their present church site on South John Street.

EARLY BLACK MEMBERSHIP:

The early rolls of the White First Baptist Church carried its Negro membership. Members of the newly organized church were listed. They were George Hicks, Angelina Capps, Chloe Morrisey, Chloe Baker, Esther Carroll, Mary Hines, Ammon Webb, Dolly Burnett, Mary Burnett, Anise Exum, William Wade, Sam Washington, Martha Suggs, Warrick Wilcox, Simon Morrisey, Penny Fields, Salina Dewey, Peggy Privett, George Washington, Abram Baker, Moses Carroll, Rachael Hassell, Patience Essler, Keigian Burnett, Winney Green, Milley Cogdell, Charles Wait Thompson, Lizzie Thompson, Amy Ford, John C. Privett, Burley Burrell, Betsy Baker, Amy Lunch, and Sarah Jernigan.

Of this group of 34 members, twenty-four were members of the white church, and ten came in as original members of the new church.

THE FIRST-FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1864, Superintendent Nelson sold to the original membership of the Negro First Baptist Church a plot of land 108' x 217' on Little River Bridge Road (Now West Pine St.). He had purchased the old Fairground Buildings and moved a section of a building onto this spot. This building was remodeled into the first edifice known to be called, "The First African Baptist Church".

Members of the church, especially the women, worked hard to raise money to pay for the church property. In 1872, C.J. Nelson and Wife Sarah, deeded to Samuel Washington, George Bunting, and Calvin Best as the first Trustees of First African Baptist Church, the property on Little River Bridge Road (West Pine Street). This building was destined to serve as the church home for more than sixty years. The plot of land was to hold the First African Baptist Church edifices for the next 100 plus years.

PASTORS:

First African Baptist Church has been blessed to have had outstanding and dedicated pastors who worked faithfully to perpetuate the great heritage.

The Rev. C.J. Nelson, (one of the organizers of the church), member of the First Baptist Church White, preached for the newly organized church for nearly two years, holding services on Sunday afternoons as members worked to pay for the lot and building.

Rev. Arnold Williams was called as the first Negro leader of the Church. He lived in Pikeville and walked to Goldsboro each

Sunday to serve the group. He was paid a monthly salary of $13.00 and the struggle to pay for the property continued. During a part of his pastorate, Rev. Williams was assisted by Rev. John Dew who left the church to accept the calling to an out-of-state pastorate. Rev. Williams served the church for twenty-one years at which time he was called to his reward. He served the church from 1864-1885.

Rev. John Dew was called from his out-of-state pastorate to serve First African Baptist Church after the death of Rev. Williams. Rev. William Bunting, in the meantime, served several months as supply Pastor until Rev. Dew could return. Rev. Dew faithfully served the church from the time of his call in 1885 until the time of his death in June 1912 — a period of 27 years.

During the efforts to fill the vacancy created by Rev. Dew's death, a controversy arose which finally ended in a church split. Rev. Johnnie B. Howell and Rev. Laddie Powell were top contenders for the church pastorate. They were so close in votes that upon refusal of the officers to recount, a conflict arose. Rev. Powell, being defeated, withdrew and carried quite a few of the congregation to organize the present Antioch Church.

Rev. Johnnie B. Howell was elected the third pastor of the First African. He served from 1913-1916 — a period of three years and three months.

In July 1916, Rev. Fred M. Davis of Wilson was called. He served the church for 8 years. These years were during a time when the church was in need of strong leadership. Through his manifested christian life and guidance, he was real inspiration to the church helping to heal many of its wounds. It was under his leadership the church decided it needed a new sanctuary. Efforts were made to raise money, and in May 1924, J.J. Scott moved the first edifice known as First African Baptist Church to the rear of the original lot so that the new edifice could be constructed on the same plot. July 4, 1924 was set as a special work day for male members of the church to help dig the basement of the new church. The church was growing in membership and organizations. About two weeks after the initial effort toward the new building was taken, Rev. Davis preached his farewell sermon.

Rev. R.W. Underwood succeded Rev. Davis beginning his pastorate in September 1924. Rev. Underwood served intermittently from 1924-1933-1938. Under his leadership, the brick edifice was completed. A few years after its completion, Rev. Underwood resigned to become the pastor of a church in Wilmington, N.C., but returned to First Baptist to pastor again in 1933 to 1938. He then resigned a second time, not to return.

Several ministers served the church after Rev. Underwood resigned in 1936. Rev. Louis Wright and Rev. Ronald Coley served most of the time. Rev. Coley was converted, baptized and ordained by Rev. R.W. Underwood.

Rev. C.W. Hawk preached several Sundays after Rev. Underwood resigned. In July 1938, he was called as pastor for First African Baptist Church. He served only a few weeks before he was called to pastor an out-of-state church.

Rev. J.A. Lewis of Suffolk, Virginia was called to pastor First African Baptist Church in April 1941 and served until 1943.

Rev. M.W. Morgan came to First African Baptist Church the fourth Sunday in May, 1943. He served 22 years until his death in 1965.

Rev. Isaac B. Horton was called to pastor First African Baptist Church in 1967 and preached his first sermon on the first Sunday in February 1967. Rev. Horton remains at present as Pastor of the church. He is striving faithfully through his dedicated ministry and guidance from God to perpetuate the great heritage and spiritual growth of the church. He has initiated several new departments in the church to develop spiritual revitalization of all membership of the church.

Rev. Hugh V. Brown, a long time member and officer in the church, is serving dedicatedly as Associate Pastor of the church.

DEACONS AND TRUSTEES OF
FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rev. C.J. Nelson preached for the

members of the newly organized Colored Baptist Church. From the Negro membership of the White First Baptist Church were two deacons who had been elected and ordained by that church.

Mr. Sam Washington and Warrick Wilcox became the first deacons ordained in the Negro Baptist Church. They served the first Negro minister of the Church, Rev. Arnold B. Williams. Elected under Rev. Williams Trustees were: Samuel Washington,* George Bunting,* and Calvin Best.* It was during the pastorate of Rev. Williams that the church and lot were paid for and the property deeded to the above named trustees.

Rev. John Dew ordained Deacons Beylam Parks,* Spencer Best,* Thomas Oakley*, and Debra Whitely*.

Rev. Fred Davis ordained Deacons, James Cowan*, Matthew Sherard*, Oscar Wooten*, Isaac Freeman*, John A. Sampson*, and Mose Hamilton*.

Under Rev. R.W. Underwood Deacons ordained by him were: James G. White, Sr., Joe B. Cook*, Henry Johnson, Sr.*, T.C. Coley*, and Earl Whitted, Sr.

Trustees serving Rev. Underwood were: Charles I. Bland, George Sasser*, Luther Wooten*, and Andrew J. Sykes*.

Rev. Morgan ordained as deacons, Charles I. Bland, William Aldridge*, A.B. Reid*, Clarence Sampson, Dr. Hardy F. Cofield, Richard H. Howell*, and Delvia Lewis*.

Trustees were Eugene A. Brown, Haywood P. Holley, James Cowan*, Charles I. Bland, Albert Best*, Matthew Sherard*, Earl Whitted, Sr., Andrew J. Sykes*, and Timothy L. Parks*.

Rev. Horton has ordained A.C. Crowder, John M. Mathews, Thomas G. Thompson, Thomas W. Hardy, Richard L. Coley, V. Lee Harris, Robert L. Swinson, and John H. Wooten, Sr.

Trustees elected were: Leroy Clark*, Dennis Coley, Attorney Earl Whitted, Jr., William Norwood Foy, John R. Jones, and Zeb Langston, Jr.

THE ROLE OF THE WOMEN IN FIRST AFRICAN CHURCH HISTORY

First African Baptist Church owes a large part of its great heritage to the outstanding and dedicated roles performed by the Women of First African Baptist Church.

Through the great work of the pioneer women, and carried on through the years by many women of the Church, the departments and auxiliaries have broadened their Christian activities.

Christian education is the nurture of individuals from childhood through adulthood. It involves the whole life. First African Baptist Church attempted to realize the advantage of Christian education through its Sunday School, B.T.U. (Baptist Training Union), Vacation Bible School, Missionary and Adult Study Groups, Youth Department Programs, and Special Baptist Retreats, and other long range departmental planning for the religious growth of all its members.

The women of the Missionary Circle strive to raise the standards of its Missionary endeavors by better interpreting and fostering the program of "The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention;" whose Motto is: "Christ In Every Home." This involves all methods of spreading the Gospel to the unsaved.

The Missionary Circle in every Baptist Church includes: A Senior Department, A Young Adult Department, and A Youth Department.

First African Baptist Church has organized these departments with dynamic leadership under Mrs. Navie Holmes, Mrs. Thelma C. Horton, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews, and the members who work in the Missionary field.

Major objectives of the Missionary Program are Christian Education through Shaw University and the Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh; Foreign Missions through the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, U.S.A.; the homeless and orphans through Central Orphanage; Recreation, Fellowship, and learning through the J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurinburg, N.C., and State Missions which involves administration, teaching, leading, witnessing and giving.

The Missionary Circle, under the leadership of Mrs. Navie Holmes, offers opportunities for leadership, for study of the Bible from a Missionary point of view, for discovering talent, and for involvement of every

member in the Church in Missionary endeavors and soul winning. Our Program of Enlistment — Christian Education — Personal Service, and Stewardship is directed by four Vice-Presidents.

The current officers are: Mrs. Navie Holmes, President; Mrs. Arlena D. Parks, First Vice-President; Mrs. Ida B. Aldridge, Second Vice President; Mrs. Amelia P. Felder, Third Vice-President; Mrs. Katie Dortch, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Amelia Best, Treasurer; Mrs. Retha Massey, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. Thelma C. Horton, Young Adult Director; Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews, Youth Supervisor; Mrs. Mary H. Whitley, Program Chairperson; Mrs. Edna Lewis, Program Chairperson. Other members include: Mrs. Willie Whitley, Mrs. Pearl Cobb, Mrs. Ernestine W. Bostic, Mrs. Eloise Larkin, Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Mrs. Bernice Moore, Mrs. Emma Langston, Mrs. Alberta Hobbs, Mrs. Sadie Swinson, Mrs. Deloris Williams, Miss Brenda Holley, Mrs. Julia W. DeArman, Mr. Dennis Coley, and Mr. John M. Mathews.

The Youth Missionary Department, under the leadership of its Supervisor, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews, strives untiringly to involve all children and youth from birth to 20 years in its missionary training and activities. Children are divided into eight groups with Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews, Mrs. Arlena D. Parks, Mrs. Thelma C. Horton, Miss Brenda Holley, and Mrs. Deloris Williams as Advisors. There are 45 members in this department. Officers are: President, Bernardette Horton; 1st Vice-President, Ivy Murrain; 2nd Vice-President, Delores Green; 3rd Vice-President, Edwina Bostic; 4th Vice-President, Angela Coley; Secretary, Bernardeane Horton; and Assistant Secretary, Chleta Sampson.

Mrs. Thelma C. Horton, wife of Pastor, Rev. I.B. Horton, also works in the field of Missions on a state-wide level. She is the Second Vice-President of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foriegn Missionary Convention of North Carolina. She also serves as its Chairperson of Public Relations and Instructor in Missionary Classes.

The Missionary Department of the First African Baptist Church has a membership of dedicated Christian Women. The Department is looking forward to building a much stronger Youth Program. It will strive to keep alert and enlightened on trends and progress of the Church through workshops, also urge and interest more adult women to become involved in Missionary work and the Sunday School.

The Women of the Church work zealously in all Departments of the Church; in the Choirs, on the Usher Board, and aid the Laymen's League in their activities. The women have contributed greatly in working in the Sunday School.

The women are not shirkers in supporting the Church financially, and in going beyond the mile in donating to Missions and all worthy activities.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Mrs. Doris P. Cherry, Directress, and Mrs. Temple J. Howell, Assistant Directress, are performing important roles as devout Christian workers with the Youth Fellowship.

Their work is geared toward a fellowship with Christian Standards and behavior. Among its major objectives and activities is sponsoring a successful Youth Day, one Sunday each year. They also render all services, except the message, for each 3rd Sunday, and sponsor an annual "Prayer Breakfast" each Homecoming Saturday morning, as well as special programs periodically, such as Dramatic Productions, Easter, and Christmas activities.

THE DEACONESS BOARD

The Deaconess Board has rendered invaluable "Christian Service" in the Church. The Deaconess Board was organized in 1967 soon after Rev. Isaac B. Horton began his pastorate at First African Baptist Church.

Rev. Horton saw the need for organizing the Deacons' wives for better Christian fellowship and for taking better care of the "Communion Service" elements and other items for the altar.

Mrs. Cora Sampson, the oldest member of the Church, had been taking care of the Communion cloths and elements for many, many years. She was named the "Mother of the Church." Mrs. Sampson died on August

25, 1976, at the age of 92. She was a devout Christian and dedicated member.

A meeting was called by Rev. Horton a few weeks after he preached his first sermon in February, 1967. Rev. Horton informed the Deaconesses concerning the guidelines and duties of a Deaconess.

A few weeks later, the Deaconesses met in the Choir Room of the Church for the election of officers. The first members were Mrs. Theresa S. Bland, President; Mrs. Grace J. Reid, Secretary; Mrs. Rose Smith, Treasurer; Mrs. Cora Sampson, Chaplain; Mrs. Maria Cowan, Mrs. Serena Cofield, Mrs. Mabel Whitted, and Mrs. Mary J. Oakley.

Later, after Mr. John Mathews and Mr. Thomas Thompson were ordained as Deacons, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews and Mrs. Doris L. Thompson joined the Deaconess Board.

After Mr. Thomas Hardy was ordained as a Deacon, Mrs. Dorothy W. Hardy became a Deaconess.

In December, 1974, Mrs. Dorothy W. Hardy was elected President of the Deaconess Board.

At this time, Mrs. Theresa S. Bland had served seven years as President of the Deaconess Board. Mrs. Doris L. Thompson was elected Secretary; Mrs. Serena Cofield, Vice-President; Mrs. Rose Smith was elected as Treasurer; and Mrs. Theresa S. Bland, Chaplain.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Dorothy W. Hardy, the Deaconesses have striven to enrich their spiritual lives and the growth of the Church. They have initiated and promoted activities to foster close relationships among the Church members. They have also promoted good Christian influence with their husbands to constrain them to be devout and dedicated Deacons.

The Deaconesses have raised funds so that they can assume the responsibility of keeping the Altar and Communion elements according to the high standards of the Church, to care for, and make available utensils necessary for Communion Services and support the Deacons in the execution of their duties as spiritual leaders of the Church.

The Deaconesses sponsor a special rally day activity the Second Sunday in October of each year. They invite visiting Ministers and sometime Women Speakers for the services which have been spiritual services of rededication to strengthen our spiritual lives.

The Deaconess have reached their financial goals each year. This year, over $5,000 was raised to help on the Building Fund for our new Church.

The Deaconess Board has been successful this year in raising funds by having Yard Sales on Saturdays at the Church's Fellowship House.

The Deaconesses are proud to have three new members join them November 20, 1977, namely: Mrs. Barbara Coley, Mrs. Sadie Swinson, and Mrs. Ernestine Wooten, whose husbands were newly ordained Deacons: Mr. Richard Coley, Mr. Robert Swinson, and Mr. John H. Wooten, Sr.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

The Women of First African Baptist Church have contributed much time to help build a great Sunday School Department in our Church.

The Sunday School is under the leadership of Deacon Thomas Hardy, and Associate Superintendent, Dr. O.R. Stovall.

First African has always had a good Sunday School Department which is continuing to thrive under the dynamic leadership of Superintendent Hardy. The plans and methods of a Standard Sunday School are enriched by having good Sunday School procedures and teachers. The goal of the Sunday School is to teach the word of God, to lay a foundation for Christian living, and to win souls to Christ.

The women of our Church have served soulfully and diligently as Sunday School Teachers, along with the men. Currently serving as teachers are: Mrs. Amelia Felder, Mrs. Ernestine Bostic, Mrs. Temple Howell, Mrs. Edna Lewis, Mrs. Barbara Coley, Mrs. Elizabeth Mathews, Mrs. Thelma Horton, and Miss Rosalind Wooten.

Deceased Sunday School Teachers are: Mrs. Annie Fort, who was the first woman elected Sunday School Superintendent in 1892 and 1893; Mrs. Chanie Sasser, Treasurer; Mrs. Sudie Washington, Mrs. Susie Bor-

den, Mrs. Mollie Holt, Mrs. Clara Washington (mother of Mrs. Goldie Bethea), who taught the Cradle Roll Class for many years; Mrs. Armitie Davis, Mrs. Beatrice Underwood, Mrs. Evelyn Hill, Mrs. Lula Pate, Mrs. Leah Parks, Mrs. Missouri Toler, Mrs. Roxie Rowe, and Mrs. Sarah Best.

The men who are serving currently are: Mr. Richard Coley, Mr. Willie Nowlin, Jr., and Mr. John M. Matthews.

Charles I. Bland served as Superintendent for fifteen years.

The men who served as Sunday School Teachers are: Mr. Foraker Felder, Rev. H.V. Brown, the late A.B. Reid, Mr. P.A. Best, Mr. Freddie Sanford, and Mr. Johnny R. Sampson.

Mr. Ernie Hargrove served as Superintendent, and First African Baptist Church has been blessed to have had many dedicated and alert Superintendents from the beginning of its history. Some of these Superintendents were: Mr. John Fort, Mr. Matthew Sherard, Mr. E.R. Bostic (father of Mr. E.C. Bostic, Jr.), Mr. A.J. Sykes, Mr. A.B. Reid, teacher and Superintendent; Mr. J. Cook, Mr. Isaac Freeman, Mr. John A. Sampson, Mr. T.C. Coley, teacher and Superintendent; and Mr. Clayton K. Harris. Mr. Thomas Arrington taught Sunday School for many years.

SCOUTING

Girl Scouts: First African Baptist Church sponsors Girl Scout Troops which were organized on October 15, 1975 and chartered on November 15, 1975.

Mrs. G. Patricia Stokes, Leader; and Miss Janice Hill, Assistant, are leaders of Brownie Troop #153 — Consists of girls in the first, second, and third grades. Miss Doris Fike assists with the Brownie Troop when she is in town.

Mrs. Barbara Coley and Miss Delia Howell are leaders for Junior Troop #450 — Consists of fourth, fifth, and sixth grade girls.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Shipman and Mrs. Vivian Stover are leaders for Cadette Troop #407 for girls in grades six to ten.

These leaders are performing a great service in training the Girl Scout Troops sponsored by First African Baptist Church. Forty-seven girls are enrolled.

The Scouting objectives are: To provide opportunity for practice in democratic living. To develop an individual sense of responsibility. To promote acceptance of differences in people. To promote the tenets of Christian living, physical development and ethical character, community awareness, citizenship and fellowship. To conserve and renew our environment.

Boy Scout Troop #102 of First African Baptist Church consists of two patrols: Eagle Patrol and Panther Patrol.

Mr. John D. Stokes is Scout Master. Ten boys are enrolled, 10 years old to 16 years old. The women assist Mr. Stokes as helpers and Den mothers as he calls upon them.

AUXILIARIES

THE STITCH AND CHATTER CLUB

The Stitch and Chatter Club was organized as an auxiliary of the First African Baptist Church during the pastorate of Rev. R.W. Underwood, in the early 1930's.

The founders were: Mrs. Lula Faucette, and Mrs. Henrietta Wooten, who had the vision to organize a Church Club for spiritual, social, and finanical aid to help First African Baptist meet its funancial obligations. The members met once a week at different homes to sew articles, and garments to sell to raise funds for their treasure. The members also had prayer services, and singing, and served delicious repasts.

The Stitch and Chatter Club has contributed much spiritually and financially for the benefit of the Church every year since its beginning.

Mrs. Katie Dortch, the current President, has worked diligently with dynamic leadership during her terms of office. She has work faithfully with the help of God, and determination to carry on the work of the Club with only a few members. Many of the members are sick and shut-ins, but they continue to work hard each year, and go over-the-top in raising funds on their special rally day.

All of the members of First African Baptist look forward each year for the Stitch and Chatters annual rally day service with Rev. William Dortch and his Church Choir rendering service. Rev. Dortch is the son of Mrs. Katie Dortch.

Senior Usher Board

Mr. Samuel Cox
Chairman

Mr. Henry Peterson

Mrs. G. Patricia Stokes

Front row, left to right, Mesdames: Mattie Bass, Secretary, Deloris Williams, Gertrude Hobbs, Mary S. Johnson, Ruby Whitted, and Mr. Samuel Cox, President; Back row, left to right, Messrs: William Cherry, Lathan T. Moore, Edward Sears, Zeb Langston, Sr., Frederick Williams, Willie Nowlin, Maxwell Williams, and Mrs. Emma Coley.

Usher Board No. 2

Junior Usher Board

Mr. John Henry Wooten, Jr.

Mr. Barney Lewis

SPECIAL BUILDING FUND DONORS

In Memory of Mr. A.B. Reid
By
Mrs. Gladys Todd
Fredericksburg, Va.

Miss Evelyn Turner

In Memory of Mrs. Sallie White
Mr. & Mrs. George Sasser
And
Mrs. Lucy Hinton
By
Dr. Earl Sasser, Sr.
Miss Elna J. Sasser
Mrs. Sallie S. Frederick
And
Mrs. Sarah S. Robinson

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Warmsly

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Washington

Mrs. Ethel Washington

In Honor of Mrs. Lavenia Watson
By
Mr. Harold Watson
Washington, D.C.
And
Mr. Henry Watson
San Francisco, Calif.

Rev. L.P. Watson
Norfolk, Va.

Wayne Foundation
By
Mr. Henry Weil

Miss Eva Weatherington

Mrs. Jewell Weathers

Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Wesley
Washington, D.C.

In Honor of Mrs. Hattie McClarian
By
Mr. Conrad B. Wessell

Mrs. Jessamine Wheeler
Baltimore, Md.

Mr. Albert Whitaker (Deceased)

Mr. James White, Jr.
Hampton, Va.

Mrs. Florence Whitley
Pinceton, N.C.

Mrs. Christine Whitted

Mr. Kenneth Whitted

In Memory of Mrs. Mable Whitted
By
Mrs. Catherine T. Anderson

Mr. & Mrs. James H. Carney

Mrs. Phyllis Chapman
Charlotte, N.C.

Mrs. Anita Crank

Mrs. Mary L. Dunn
And
Daughters, Velma and Mary Lou
Kinston, N.C.

Mrs. Helen Edison

Miss Lenora Johnson

Miss Pocahontas Sampson

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Smith

Mr. & Mrs. C.W. Twiford

Mr. James White, Jr.
Hampton, Va.

Mr. Leonard White
Waterbury, Conn.

SPECIAL BUILDING FUND DONORS

Mrs. Bertha Whittington
And Mr. Lawson Withers

Rev. & Mrs. Joseph Wiley

Major William N. Williams

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Willis

In Honor of Mrs. Emma K. Langston
By
Mr. & Mrs. Sydney Wise

Rev. & Mrs. John A. Wooten

Mr. Luther Wooten

Mrs. Shirley Braswell Worley

In Memory of Mrs. Johnnie Pearl Daniels Wright
By
Rev. Lewis Wright

In Memory of Mrs. Daisy Williams
By the Williams Family

Mr. Leroy Williams Sr.
Bronx, N.Y.

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph N. Williams
Detroit, Mich.

Mr. & Mrs. John Mathews
Goldsboro, N.C.

Dr. & Mrs. Clarence Williams
Newton, Mass.

Mr. & Mrs. James (Estelle) Thorpe
Hamden, Conn.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Williams
Detroit, Mich.

Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Williams, Jr.
Bridgeport, Conn.

Mr. & Mrs. DeLinwood Williams
Philadelphia, Pa.
And
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Williams
White Plains, N.Y.

Mrs. Katie Zachary
Richmond, Va.

Zeta Chi Zeta Chapter
of Zeta Phi Beta Chapter, Inc.

BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS
TO
THE FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

"Birthplace of the Neuse River Missionary Baptist Association"

UPON THE

DEDICATION OF YOUR NEW CHURCH EDIFICE

FROM THE

NEUSE RIVER MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Organized at First African in 1867

Dr. F.L. Bullock, Moderator
Rev. K.P. Battle, First Vice Moderator
Rev. McKinley Nicholson, Corresponding Secretary
Rev. L. Edwards, Recording Secretary
Bro. James W. Williams, Treasurer

Composed of 74 Churches in Eastern North Carolina

DEACON BOARD

Front row, left to right: Messrs: John M. Mathews, Chairman; Earl Whitted, Sr., Charles I. Bland, Hardy F. Cofield, John H. Wooten, Sr., V. Lee Harris, and James G. White, Sr. Back row, left to right: Messrs: Thomas W. Hardy, Richard Coley, Thomas G. Thompson and E.L. Smith, Vice-Chairman.

TRUSTEE BOARD

Left to right: Dr. O.R. Stovall, Vice-Chairman; Messrs: Zeb Langston, Jr., Haywood P. Holley, Atty. Earl Whitted, Jr., Dennis Coley, William Norwood Foy, John R. Jones, and Eugene A. Brown,Chairman.

The Deaconess Board of First African Baptist Church was formally or officially organized in 1967 soon after Rev. Isaac B. Horton began his Pastorate.

Rev. Horton saw the need for organizing the deacons' wives for better Christian fellowship, and for taking better care of the "Communion Service" elements and other items for the altar.

The first members of the newly organized Deaconess Board were: Mrs. Theresa S. Bland, President; Mrs. Grace J. Reid, Secretary; Mrs. Rose Smith, Treasurer; Mrs. Cora Sampson (deceased) Chaplain and Mother of the Church; Mrs. Maria Cowan, Mrs. Serena Cofield, Mrs. Mabel Whitted, and Mrs. Mary J. Oakley.

Later, after Mr. John M. Mathews and Mr. Thomas G. Thompson were ordained Deacons, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews and Mrs. Doris L. Thompson were formally installed as deaconesses.

After Mr. Thomas W. Hardy was ordained a Deacon, Mrs. Dorothy W. Hardy became a deaconess.

In December 1974, Mrs. Dorothy Hardy was elected President of the Deaconess Board.

The Deaconesses are proud to have three new members who were installed as Deaconesses on November 20, 1977, namely: Mrs. Barbara Coley, Mrs. Sadie Swinson, and Mrs. Ernestine W. Wooten.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE DEACONESS BOARD

Front row, left to right, Mesdames: Doris Thompson, Secretary; (insert), Theresa S. Bland, Chaplain, Dorothy W. Hardy, President; Serena Cofield, Vice-President; Grace J. Reid, Assistant Secretary; and Barbara Coley, (insert). Back row, left to right, Mesdames: Elizabeth W. Mathews, Sadie Swinson, Rose Smith, Treasurer; and Ernestine W. Wooten.

YOUNG ADULT MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT

Left to Right — Mrs. Thelma C. Horton, Directress; Mrs. Patricia Stokes, First Vice President; Mrs. Beverly J. Parks, 4th Vice President; Ronald Dortch; Mrs. Johnice S. Lewis; Mrs. Shirley G. Rogers, Second Vice President; Mrs. Delores Williams, President; Miss Brenda Holly, Secretary; Mrs. Mattie Bass, Third Vice President.

THE FIRST YOUNG ADULT MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT
First African Baptist Church
Left to right: Mrs. Shirley Rogers, Miss Brenda Holley, Mrs. G. Patricia Stokes, Mrs. Beverly J. Parks (Queen), Mrs. Delores Williams, Mrs. Mattie Bass and Mrs. Thelma C. Horton.

YOUTH MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT

Officers: Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews, Supervisor; Misses Bernardette Horton, President; Ivy Murrain, First Vice-President; Brenda Nowlin, Second Vice-President; Angela Coley, Third Vice-President; Annetta Stokes, Fourth Vice-President; Bernardeane Horton, Secretary; Choleta Sampson, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. Deloris Williams, Associate Supervisor; and Mrs. Thelma C. Horton, Consultant and Advisor.

SENIOR MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT

Seated, left to right: Mesdames: Navie Holmes, President, Bernice Moore, Amelia P. Felder, Katie Dortch, Secretary; Essie Brown, Fourth Vice-President; Arlena D. Parks, First Vice-President; Standing, left to right: Mr. John Mathews, Mesdames: Elizabeth W. Mathews, Youth Supervisor; Ida Bell Aldridge, Second Vice-President; Julia DeArman, Assistant Secretary; Amelia S. Best, Treasurer; Mary H. Whitley, Program Chairman; and Dennis Coley. Not pictured: Mrs. Edna Lewis, Program Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Seated, left to right: Miss Rosalind Wooten, Mesdames: Eloise Pate, Elizabeth W. Mathews, Willie C. Whitley, Ida Bell Aldridge, Ernestine W. Bostic, and Taritha Middleton: Standing left to right: Dr. O.R. Stovall, Assistant Superintendent; Messrs: Clarence Sampson, Nowlin, Misses: Joyce Smith, Secretary; and Bernardeane Horton, Secretary, Messrs: Richard Coley, John Mathews, and Thomas W. Hardy, Superintendent. Not pictured: Mesdames Thelma C. Horton and Rosa C. Williams.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Officers: Mrs. Doris Cherry, Directress; Misses: Jeannette Jones, President; Bernardette Horton, Vice-President, and Chairman of Ways and Means; Joyce Smith, Devotional Leader; Edwina Bostic, Sick Chairman, Mr. Duane Howell, Hospitality; and Mrs. Erwin Green, Stewardship.

STITCH AND CHATTER CLUB

Left to right: Mesdames: Katie Dortch, Mary Johnson, Sarah Lane, and Floy Wilson. Not Pictured: Mrs. Lavenia Watson.

THE LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

The Laymen's League was officially organized in the fall of 1948 with Mr. John H. Wooten being appointed as the first president.
The present officers are: Mr. Thomas G. Thompson, President, Mr. Richard L. Coley, Vice-President, Mr. Andrew Lofton, Secretary, Dr. O.R. Stovall, Treasurer, Mr. James G. White, Chaplain.

The present members of the Stitch and Chatter Club are: Mrs. Katie Dortch, President; Mrs. Mary Johnson, Vice-President; Mrs. Louvenia Watson, Secretary; Mrs. Sarah Lane, Treasurer; Mrs. Lossie Holley, Mrs. Josephine Holmes, and Mrs. Mary S. Pennington.

Deceased members who gave dedicated services were: Mrs. Ludie Aldridge, a Past President; Mrs. Maria Cowan, Mrs. Beatrice Cowan Kornegay, Mrs. Annie B. Coley served as President and Secretary; Mrs. Betty Evans served as Secretary; Mrs. Lula Faucette, Founder; Mrs. Hattie Hill, Mrs. Lizzie Raiford, Mrs. Flora Shaw, Mrs. Rachel Carroll, Mrs. Susie Borden, Mrs. Bill Ida Green, Mrs. Lillie Foxworth, Mrs. Gertrude King, Mrs. Henrietta Wooten, Mrs. Channie Sasser served as President and Secretary; Mrs. Daisy Williams served as President and Secretary; Mrs. Bertha Wright and Mrs. Cora Sampson served as Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Bertha Smith, and Mrs. Bertha Davis.

First African Baptist Church is proud to laud these dedicated, faithful Christian Women for their contributions in perpetuating the great heritage of the Church of "God's Kingdom Building."

THE FLORAL CLUB

The Floral Club, under the leadership of Mrs. Eliza Aldridge, provides seasonal flowers for the Church services. Mrs. Carrie L. Flowers is the new President.

THE PASTOR'S AIDE CLUB

The Pastor's Aide Club, whose President is Mrs. Elizabeth Hobbs, remembers our Pastor's anniversaries and contributes to other areas for the welfare of the Pastoral Family.

SICK AND BENEVOLENT

Mr. John M. Mathews is Chairman of the Sick and Benevolent Committee of the Church. This committee remembers the sick and those who are in need or in distress in the Church, as well as outside of the Church, serving those who need in the community who have a Church home, or, do not have a Church home. The women of the Church aid this committee greatly.

THE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Committee was formed in 1974 upon the recommendation of the Pastor, Rev. I.B. Horton.

The purpose of the committee is to be aware of the social concerns of the Church as they relate to the community, and to be involved in those activities that tend to strengthen the bond between the Church and the community.

The members of the committee are:

Elizabeth B. Brown, Chairperson
John M. Mathews, Co-Chairperson
Arlena D. Parks, Secretary

OTHER ORIGINAL MEMBERS:

Mesdames Essie Brown, Lillie Edwards, Delia Howell, Marguerite Murrain, Hattie G. Perry, Louise Shealy, G. Patricia Stokes, Barbara Welch, Ruby Whitted, Miss Nancy Wooten, Miss Rosalind Wooten, and Messrs Amos P. Cox, Michael Howell, and Charles Richardson.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC
FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

"Let the words of Christ dwell in you richly and with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Colossians — 3:16

The Ministry of Music in the First African Baptist Church has been commendable all through the years of the existence of the Church. The Ministry of Music has a two-fold purpose: (1) to minister to all who enter the Church doors, and (2) to provide a planned program of religious education through music.

A balanced variety of all types of suitable and worthy music is desired and provided for all Church services — Music that is always worshipful and reverent to God — to keep our souls revived, and enhance the worship services.

Our Church Music has been a valuable aid to the spiritual worship, rather than for mere entertainment.

Church Music is a dynamic force in the

program of First African Baptist Church. The Directors of Music, Mrs. Eleanor Harris, Chancel Choir and Youth Choir; Mrs. Catherine Lutz, Choir No. 1; Mrs. Retha G. Massey, President of the Gospel Chorus; and Mrs. Ernestine W. Wooten, Director of the Sunshine Choir — all strive to provide a program of religious education and spiritual inspiration through music. Mrs. Eloise Larkin served dedicatedly as organist for the Youth Choir, with Mrs. Temple Howell as Director.

The Music Program of First African Baptist Church offers choirs for all ages above the pre-school level.

The Senior Choir or Choir No. 1, directed by Mrs. Catherine Lutz, serves every First Sunday.

The Chancel Choir, directed by Mrs. Eleanor Harris, sings on the Second and Fourth Sundays. This group included adult and youth members.

The Youth Choir, directed by Mrs. Eleanor Harris, consists of members whose ages range from 12 and up. This spiritually oriented group serves during regular Church service on the Third Sunday of each month.

The "Young Singers" were a talented group originating out of the Youth Fellowship and the Youth Choir and directed by Miss Valerie Harris. They were referred to by Mrs. Doris Cherry in announcing a program in Church as "The Young Singers" — a name which followed them. This group was separated when some of its members graduated and entered colleges of their choice.

Some of the original members of the "Young Singers" were: Bernardette Horton, Bernardeane Horton, Nancy Wooten, Jeanette Jones, Jocelyn Harris, John Jones, Jr., and Lynn Whitted.

The Sunshine Choir, formerly the "Tots' Choir," directed by Mrs. Ernestine W. Wooten, consists of children ages 5-11. Their purpose is to promote spiritual development and learning, to worship through singing, as well as to enhance and enrich the singing talents of the children.

The Men's Choir, made up of men from all departments of the Church, serves on the Fifth Sunday of the month, and at other times when requested.

The earliest historical records of First African Baptist Church show that Music has performed a major role in the spiritual contribution for spreading the Gospel through music in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and surrounding communities.

The records show that Mr. James H. Hatcher, father of Miss Charity Hatcher, Mrs. Cora H. Pittman, Mr. Andrew Hatcher, Mrs. Sarah H. Sears, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hatcher, and Mrs. Mary H. Bolden, was the first recorded organist of First African Baptist Church. Mr. Hatcher was Church Organist during the pastorate of Rev. Arnold B. Williams, Rev. John W. Dew, Rev. Joshua Howell, Rev. Fred Davis, and Rev. R.W. Underwood. The old records from 1882-1892 show that Mr. James H. Hatcher was Organist for the Church services and the Sunday School Choir.He received a salary of $1.25 a Sunday in 1882, and $2.50 per Sunday from 1892-1916.

The Sunday School Choir served a major role in building better Sunday School attendance during the early years of the Church.

The early Church pastors and members did not believe in having too many instruments in the Church, but there was an organ pumped by the feet, with a second person manipulating a pump at the back of the organ by hand.

Later in the middle 1900's, a piano was purchased.

The first pipe organ of the Church was purchased during the pastorate of Rev. M.W. Morgan.

The installation service for the new pipe organ was held on Easter Sunday, April, 1951. All members were proud of this accomplishment. When the first melodious strains came from the pipes, a surge of "Hallelujahs" rang out, and when Mrs. Frances O. Petteway sang "Ava Maria" at the installation services.

A new piano was purchased soon after the organ was installed.

The current directors of the different

Church choirs are continuing their dedication "beyond the mile" service by vitalizing the Ministry of Music in the Church.

Many members of the Senior Choir have served untiringly for many years, and are still serving faithfully under the leadership of Mrs. Catherine Lutz, Organist; Mrs. Retha G. Massey, President; Mrs. Hattie G. Perry serves as Secretary; Mrs. Goldie Bethea, Soloist; Mrs. Eloise Pate, Soloist, who served as President for many years; Mrs. Navie Holmes and Mrs. Ida B. Aldridge served as organists. Other active members are: Mrs. Elnora Murphy, Mrs. Mary Rogers, Mrs. Willie Whitley, Mrs. Floy Wilson, Mrs. Mary J. Whitley, Dr. Hardy F. Cofield, Mr. V. Lee Harris, Mr. Clarence Sampson, Mr. Haywood F. Holley, Mr. J.B. Case, Jr., Mr. Frederick Lutz, and Mr. Levy Howell.

Members who have served and are inactive are: Mrs. Goldie Williams, Mrs. Charity McNeil, Mrs. Luminer Waters, Mr. John D. Middleton, and Mrs. Etta Stevens (now a member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church), and Mrs. Ruth Evans Edwards, who sang and served as organist.

Deceased members who served faithfully in Choir No. 1 were: Mesdames Annie E. Fort, Mollie Holt, Gertrude Holt, Susie H. Borden, Maria Cowan, who served as Treasurer; Channie Sasser, Lizzie Raiford, Betty Evans, Ludie Aldridge, Beatrice Kornegay, Betty Wooten, Armita Davis, Emma Middleton, Evelyn Hill, Frances Hill, Annie Bell Coley, Sudie Washington Sasser, Clara Washington (mother of Mrs. Goldie Bethea), Roxie Rowe, and Henrietta Wooten; Messrs Delvia Lewis, Vice President; J.W. Wright, A.J. Sykes, John Washington, John Davis, John A. Sampson, and Abner Sampson.

The Chancel Choir, under the dynamic, efficient, dedicated Director and Organist, Mrs. Eleanor Harris, has the following faithful members: Mesdames Amelia S. Best, Ernestine W. Bostic, Doris L. Brown, Julia DeArman, Eliza Jones, Juanita Jones, Eloise Larkin, Annie C. Love, Taritha Middleton, Marguerite Murrain, Frances O. Petteway, Arlena Parks, Gwendolyn Vann, Ernestine Wooten, Mary Thompson, and Vernell Boone; Messrs Prince Albert Best, Jr., J.B. Case, Jr., Dr. Hardy F. Cofield, Haywood F. Holley, Frederick M. Lutz, George Murrain, Clarence Sampson, and Roscoe Williams.

Other members who served were: Mrs. Irene Reid Taylor (living in New York) who served a Organist; Mrs. Pauline Holt (deceased), Mrs. Rosetta Carter, Mrs. Emma Langston, Mrs. Mabel Bonner, (deceased), Mr. John R. Jones, Mrs. Serena Cofield, Mrs. Edna E. Simmons, and Mr. Henry Johnson, (deceased).

The Organists who have served all choirs with dedicated service are: the late Mr. James H. Hatcher, who served as organist during the pastorate of five ministers from the first Negro Minister, Rev. Arnold B. Williams to Rev. R.W. Underwood.

Mr. Hatcher served faithfully until he became ill and passed in October, 1946, at the age of eighty-four.

Other Organists who served are: Mrs. Martha Whitted Moore Hilliard (deceased); Mrs. Pauline Sykes Graham (deceased); Mrs. Millie Wynn Smith (living in New York); Mrs. Georgia Wall (deceased); Mrs. Ruth Evans Edwards, Mrs. Ida Bell Aldridge; and the late Mrs. Margaret Morgan, wife of the late Rev. M.W. Morgan.

Mrs. Theresa S. Bland served for many years as Organist for Choirs No. 1 and 2, the Sunday School, and the B.Y.P.U., now the B.T.U.

Mr. Woodrow Richardson served as Organist for all Choirs. Mrs. Thelma I. Johnson, Choir No. 2; Mr. Benjamin Johnson, Choir No. 1; Mr. Shipps Washington, all choirs intermittenly, and the Youth Choir; Mrs. Goldie Bethea, Choir No. 1; Mrs. Georgia Wall, Choir No. 2, Mrs. Ernestine Wooten, the Sunshine Choir and played for the Sunday School; and Miss Valerie Harris, the Youth Choir.

Mrs. Eleanor Harris serves currently as Organist for the Chancel Choir and the Youth Choir. Mr. Catherine Lutz is Organist for the Senior Choir and the Sunshine Choir.

Lest we forget; First African Baptist women organized a Gospel Chorus during the pastorate of Rev. M.W. Morgan, who saw a need for a choir to sing at the Sunday night

services and other special occasions. The original Gospel Chorus served until regular night services were discontinued.

The first members of the original Gospel Chorus were: Mrs. Mary Dean, Mrs. Clara Brock, President; Mrs. Carrie Lou Flowers, Secretary; Mrs. Vanessa Gray, Vice President; Mrs. Emma Hamilton, Mrs. Hattie McClarian, Mrs. Louise Shealy, and Mr. Samuel Cox. Mr. Woodrow Richardson was the Organist and Treasurer.

In the year 1977, Mrs. Retha G. Massey and Mrs. Julia DeArman were inspired to reorganize the Gospel Chorus for First African Baptist Church.

Mrs. Retha G. Massey is the President of the new Gospel Chorus which was installed and dedicated on Sunday, February, 1977, by the Pastor, Rev. I.B. Horton.

The Gospel Chorus has enriched the Ministry of Music in the First African Baptist Church with Soul Stirring Gospel Music.

The Gospel Chorus has begun to render services through music by serving on many Church programs in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and surrounding communities.

Mrs. Laura J. Foster is the Organist for the Gospel Chorus, and Mr. Donnie McIntyre serves as Organist when Mrs. Foster is not available to serve.

The current members of the new Gospel Chorus are: Mesdames Retha G. Massey, President; Julia DeArman, Vice-President; Ida Bell Aldridge, Secretary; Mattie Bass, Business Manager; Mary D. Rogers, Treasurer; Hilda Manuel, Social Chairperson; Rose B. Marks, Chairperson Sick Committee; Evelyn Croom, Beverly Parks, Ethel Sampson, and Messrs. Prince Albert Best, Jr., J.B. Case, Jr., and Frederick Lutz.

CHURCH SOLOISTS

The Choirs of First African Baptist Church afford several outstanding soloists from Choir No. 1 to the Sunshine Choir.

Mrs. Goldie Malone Bethea has been a soloist at First African Baptist Church and other Churches in our area for many years. Her renditions of gospel music have been inspirational to congregations and raido audiences as she pours out her soul in her music. She is a member and soloist of Choir No. 1.

Mrs. Eloise Pate has been President, member, soloist, and leader of Choir No. 1 for many years. Her leadership has kept the choir consistent in participating in many financial efforts of the Church through the years. She is a stalwart member and firm supporter of the gospel.

Mrs. Frances Oakley Petteway has been soloist with the Chancel Choir for many years. Her beautiful soprano voice has led the choir in many ways as a member and soloist. She was guest soloist for the Women's Baptist Convention, held at the Durham Civic Center in 1977.

Mrs. Arlena D. Parks has been soloist and member of the Chancel Choir for many years. She has served as soloist also on many programs for various occasions. Her lyric voice has added a melodic quality to the choir.

Mrs. Amelia Sampson Best has been a soloist and member of the Chancel Choir for many years. She has sung solos on many occasions. Her melodious voice is outstanding with the singing groups.

Mrs. Eunice Whitted Hudson was an outstanding soloist with Choir No. 2, now the Chancel Choir.

Miss Valerie Harris has been singing from childhood through college, and now as a professional soloist and teacher. She has been Sunday School pianist and Youth Choir Director. She presented her college senior recital at the Church, December, 1971, sponsored by the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She has done wonderful solo work as a guest and with the Chancel Choir. She has traveled and performed with the professional troupe, Voices, Inc.

Mr. Derrick Croom has also been singing from childhood through college and now as a professional soloist. He attended Church choir rehearsals with his mother while growing up and developed a fine bass voice throughout his college training. He studied in Italy for one summer. He has done wonderful solo work as a guest and with the Chancel Choir. He is desirious of becoming a concert artist.

Miss Jocelyn Harris is soloist with the

Youth Choir. She started singing solos in Sunday School programs, and has carried it over in the public schools she has attended. With her singing ability, she won the title of "Miss Black Teen-Age World" of Goldsboro and Wayne County for 1978. She plans to pursue a career in singing and communications.

Miss Nancy Wooten has been soloist and leader of the Youth Choir. Her strong leadership abilities and cooperative spirit, as well as her interest in music have been an inspiration to the young people. She was a successful participant in school and community programs, and was an outstanding leader in her high school choir, and also now in her college choir.

Bernardeane and Bernardette Horton, twin daughters of Rev. I.B. Horton and Mrs. Thelma C. Horton, received a standing ovation after singing a duet, "My Tribute," during the Youth Session when Mrs. Eva Pratt was given a "This Is Your Life" July 20, 1978, during the W.B.H. & F.M. Convention, 94th Annual Session.

CONCERT FEATURES VALERIE HARRIS, DERRICK CROOM AND RICHARD (STEVE) BROWN

The first monthly fund-raising program held for the benefit of the Church Building Fund was a concert featuring Valerie Harris, Soprano; Derrick Croom, Bass; and Richard Brown, Bass. Valerie and Derrick are members of our Church, and Richard was a guest soloist. This wonderful concert, sponsored by Mrs. Ernestine W. Wooten, was presented on July 27, 1975, at the Virginia Street School Auditorium. The three outstanding soloists, who are college music graduates, gave a tremendous program of sacred, spiritual, and secular selections. The audience, thrilled by their renditions, gave them a standing ovation. These young people gave willingly and freely of their time and talent, and sang to the glory and honor of God. They were accompanied by their high school music teacher, Mrs. Eleanor L. Harris, who is also Valerie's mother and our Church Organist.

THE HISTORY OF THE SUNSHINE CHOIR

Prior to the formal organization of the Tot Choir, a younger children's choir, under the direction, Mrs. Ernestine W. Wooten, was trained to sing for Sunday School, and, periodically, for special Church programs, such as Children's Day, Easter, and Christmas. Among the adult Church members and friends who contributed their time and services were: Mrs. Annie C. Love, Mrs. Helois C. Lofton, Mrs. Eleanor L. Harris, and, periodically, Mrs. Laura J. Foster.

The idea of having a Tot Choir, composed of children whose ages ranged from 5-12, and organized to sing for worship service on a specific Sunday, was first presented to the Church family by Reverend Isaac B. Horton, during the first year of his pastorate in 1967 at the First African Baptist Church. The Laymen's League accepted the responsibility to sponsor the group.

The salient aims of the Directors of the Sunshine Choir are: To teach the children a variety of types of music — Hymns, Anthems, and Gospel Songs. To teach them to read the words from the hymnal . . . To prepare the children for the Junior or Youth Choir. To let them feel the responsibility of serving in the Church.

The Tot Choir made its first formal appearance on Sunday, February 4, 1968, which was the first anniversary of Rev. Horton. Choir members were attired in attractive white robes made by our own Sister Mariah Cowan, who was a loyal and faithful member of Choir No. 1.

Among the first members of the Tot Choir were: Nancy Wooten, Linette Horton, Lynn Whitted, Joyce Smith, Chere Baker, Jeannete Jones, Bernardeane Horton, Bernardette Horton, Delores Green, Michelle Exum, Jocelyn Harris, Byron Horton, John Jones, Jr., Shipps Washington, Rene Baker, Robert Jones, Barney Lewis, Jesse Cox, Walter Cox, Jody Cox, Phillip Cox, Stephen Whitted, Kenneth Whitted, Bruce Smith, Ron Best, and Von Exum. Mrs. Corita Baker, mother of members Cheri and Rene Baker, assisted

with the choir until her family moved to Denver, Colorado. Following her departure, Mrs. Delores Williams assisted for several years.

In September, 1977, the Tot Choir requested that the name of their group be changed. Among the names presented to them by the Director, the Sunshine Choir was the name accepted by the group. The Pastor and the Church accepted the name change recommendation, and the Sunshine Choir became the official name of the Tot Choir.

Sunday, June 26, 1977, was a day long to be remembered by our Church family. It was the presentation of our First Annual Promotion Day program and the culmination of our Building Fund Drive. Beautiful music was rendered by the Sunshine Choir, and by special guests, the North Carolina A and T State University Summer Choir of Greensboro, North Carolina, with Leroy Robinson, Director, and our own Nancy V. Wooten, who sang a solo, as well as performed with the talented group.

The two members of the Sunshine Choir who raised the highest amount in the financial drive were Sherry Rogers, who was crowned "Miss Sunshine Choir," and Travis Manuel, crowned "Mr. Sunshine Choir." The total amount raised was $1,025.00. Miss Linette Horton, who crowned the king and queen, also assisted the Director in training the children for the program and designed the cover for the printed programs. The following choir members were recognized for faithful service rendered, presented engraved plaques, and promoted to the Junior Choir: Selena Best, Edwina Bostic, Angela Coley, Cindy Douglas, Ivy Murrain, Brenda Nowlin, Chleta Sampson, and Annetta Stokes.

Activities and projects for 1978 include: A paper drive, conducted by Deacon John H. Wooten; a trip to the circus in Raleigh, North Carolina, and a planted garden, coordinated by Mr. Samuel Cox. Thirty beautiful white robes with red ties were donated by Mrs. Hilda Manuel, mother of Travis Manuel.

The Sunshine Chior continues to rehearse each Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and to render service to the Church each third Sunday morning along with the Junior Choir.

Mrs. Doris L. Brown serves as choir historian, and keeps a record of Youth Choir Promotion Day Finances. Organists currently assisting are: Mrs. Catherine Lutz, Mrs. Eleanor Harris, and Mrs. Laura J. Foster.

Our Music Program offers choirs for all ages above pre-school level. The Senior Choir or Choir No. 1, the Chancel Choir, the Youth Choir, the Gospel Chorus, and the Sunshine Choir, formerly the Tot Choir, render music of different services.

We trust that there will always be personal spiritual growth as a result of our sincere endeavors to serve our Lord through music and that more members will find a desire and place of service in our different choirs.

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CHOIR NO. 1

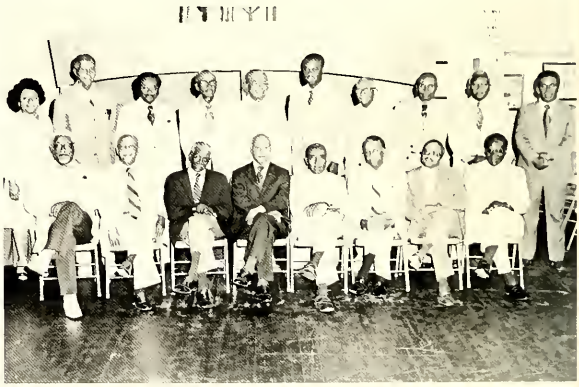
Left to Right: Mesdames, Eloise Pate, Vice-President; Willie C. Whitley, Merlyn Perry, Secretary; Navie Holmes, Ida B. Aldridge, Mary D. Rogers, Evelyn H. Croom, Retha G. Massey, President; Floy Wilson, Goldie Bethea, Dr. Hardy F. Cofield, Mr. V. Lee Harris and Mr. H.P. Holley. Inserts Mesdames: Mary F. Whitley, Eleanor Murphy and Catherine Lutz, Organist. Not Pictured; Messrs, J.B. Case, Levy Howell and Clarence Sampson.

CHANCEL CHOIR

First row: Mesdames Ernestine W. Wooten, Eliza S. Jones, Arlena D. Parks, Amelia S. Best, Taritha Middleton, Juanita F. Jones, Eloise M. Larkin, Doris L. Brown. Second row: Mesdames Eleanor L. Harris, organist-director, Ernestine W. Bostic, Bernell Boone, Gwendolyn W. Vann, secretary-treasurer, Frances O. Pettaway, Mary L. Thompson, Julia W. DeArman. Third row: Dr. H.F. Cofield, Messrs. J.B. Case, President, Roscoe Williams, Fred M. Lutz, H.P. Holley, Clarence Sampson.

YOUTH CHIOR

First row: Bernadette Horton, Jocelyn Harris, Joyce Smith, Bernadeane Horton, Annette Woodom, Jeannette Jones, Edwina Bostic, Angela Coley, Sharon Woodom. Second row: Mrs. Eleanor L. Harris, director, John Jones, Jr., Sterling Smith, Erwin Green, Karyn Williams, Carla Brown, Anita Hudson, Duane Howell, Stephen Whitted, Maurice Baker.



MEN'S CHOIR

First row: Messrs, J.B. Case, Clarence Sampson, James White, C.I. Bland, Earl Whitted, Sr., Dr. H.F. Cofield, J.H. Wooten, Sr., Thomas Thompson. Second row: Mrs. Eleanor L. Harris, director, Messrs. Leon Roberts, Willie Nowlin, Jr., William Whitley, John R. Jones, Sr., Holland Hudson, Eugene A. Brown, H.P. Holley, Thomas Hardy, E.L. Smoth.

SUNSHINE CHOIR

Left to Right: Lemond Brown, Kervin Nowlin, Gergory Williams, Gary Best, Travis Manuel, Rochie Branch, Michelle Hines, Valerie Cox, Joseph Horton, Andre Nowlin, LaShawn Jolley, Fleicia Williams, Latrice Jackson, Pamela Williams, Temple Howell, Richard Coley, Reginald Hines, Jacqueline Baker, Anjanette Langton, Sherry Rogers, Mrs. Doris Brown, Historian; Sedric Williams, Maxwell Williams, Patrick Cox, John Stokes, Karyn Williams, Carla Brown, Esther Horton, and Mrs. Ernestine W. Wooten, Director Not Pictured Kimberly Brown, Anthony Cowan, Michelle Cox, Timothy Dortch, Yvonne Hudson, Tasha Knight, Brian Lewis, Johnathan Lewis, Pretell Lewis, Laundrea Wooten and Mrs. Catherine Lutz, Organist.

GOSPEL CHORUS

Left to right: Mr. Prince Albert Best, Mrs. Hilda Manuel, Chairperson, Social Committee; Mrs. Mary D. Rogers, Treasurer; Mrs. Rose B. Marks, Mrs. Ida Bell Aldridge, Secretary; Mrs. Beverly B. Parks, Mrs. Ethel Sampson, Mrs. Mattie Bass, Business Manager; Mrs. Retha G. Massey, President; Mrs. Catherine Best, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. Evelyn Croom, Not shown on picture: Mrs. Carolyn Thompson, Mr. Frederick Lutz, Mr. J.B. Case, and Mrs. Laura J. Foster, Organist.

The Gospel Chorus of First African Baptist Church was first organized under the leadership of the late Rev. M.W. Morgan in 1950. After a few years of service, the work of the Chorus was discontinued.

The Gospel Chorus was reorganized in 1977 by Mrs. Retha G. Massey, who was appointed president.

The first appearance and performance of the new Gospel Chorus was on February 29, 1978 for the Special Rally Day of Choir #1.

The First African Baptist Church Gospel Chorus was officially installed as a singing group on April 26, 1978 during a special installation service at the regular Sunday morning church service.

The installation ceremonies were performed by the Pastor, Rev. Issac B. Horton.

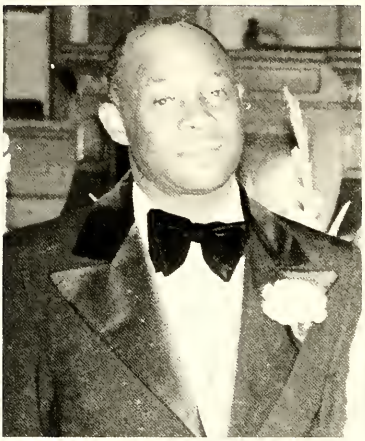
PASTOR'S AIDE CLUB

Seated, Left to right: Mesdames, Ida Bell Aldridge, Elizabeth W. Hobbs, President; Doris Thompson, Elnora Murphy, Secretary; Polly Ann Peterson, Treasurer; Standing: Left to right: Mr. Thomas Thompson, Mesdames: Nettie Clark, Carrie Lou Flowers, Mary Whitley, Floy Wilson, Ethel Sampson, Gertrude Hobbs, Louise Shealy, Bernice Moore, and Lee Anna Cox. Not pictured: Mesdames, Edna Lewis, Eliza Aldridge, Vice-President; and Alberta Hobbs. Not Pictured: Mrs. Mary Pennington and Mrs. Temple Howell.

FLORAL CLUB

Left to right, seated: Mesdames, Hattie McClarian, Treasurer; Doris Thompson, Elnora Murphy, and Polly Ann Peterson. Standing: Left to right: Mesdames, Carrie Lou Flowers, President; Delia Howell, Secretary; Gertrude Hobbs, Floy Wilson, Jacqueline Williams, and Louise Shealy. Not pictured: Mrs. Eliza Aldridge, Vice-President.

"IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY MANSIONS"
St. John 14:2



In Memory of My Beloved Husband
and our Dedicated Father, Jesse Amos
Hobbs, Sr.

In Honor of Our Mother
Mable E.W. Hobbs

GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS, FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

BY

CHILDREN Left to right: Ralph Steven Hobbs, M.D., Earl Eugene Hobbs, Alice E.H. Dawkins, Jesse Amos Hobbs, Jr., M.D., Atty. Herman Lanier Hobbs

IN-LAWS: Mrs. Alma C. Hobbs, Nashville, Tenn., Mrs. Janice B. Hobbs, Amhurst, Va., Mrs. Judy S. Hobbs, Durham, N.C. Mr. James Dawkins,,Jr., Westchester, Pa.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

YOUNG ADULT
Mr. Richard Coley

ANNIE E. FORT
Mrs. Ernestine Bostic

DAUGHTERS OF ZION
Mrs. Willie A. Whitley

SONS OF TIMOTHY
Mr. Willie Nowlin, Jr.

SONG LEADER & PIANIST
Mrs. Eloise Pate & Duane Howell

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

BEGINNERS
Mrs. Thelma C. Horton

PRIMARY
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews

MIDDLERS
Mrs. Barbara Coley

JUNIORS
Miss Rosalind Wooten

INTERMEDIATE
Mrs. Ida B. Aldridge

SENIORS
Mr. John M. Mathews

SCOUT TROOP 102

Left to Right: Maxwell Williams; Andre Nowlin; Billy Artis; and John "Jody" Stokes. Not pictured Cianci Glasper, Michael Simmons, Kevin King, Terrance Bunch, Ronald Edward, Marshall, Robbie Jones, Daryl Best and Gregory Strong.

Cadette Troup 407

Left to Right: Susan Stover; Angela Coley; Iris Murrain; Brenda Nowlin; Latrice Jackson; Chleta Sampson; Wilma Case and Annetta K. Stokes. Not pictured Ms. Dorothy Bowden, Leader.

BROWNIE TROOP #153

Left to Right: Ms. Janice Hill, Assistant Leader; Tonya McKinnie; Selena Carlisle; Tomeka Wooten; Donna Johnson; Back row — Sherry Rogers; Anjanette Langston; Nevetta McEachrin; Kim McCarter; Shannon Johnson and Leader Mrs. G. Patricia Stokes.

Junior Girl Scout
Troop 250

Mrs. Barbara Coley, Leader, Ms. Delia Howell, Assistant; Mrs. Betty Christian, Assistant, and Mrs. Jacquelin Williams, Assistant.

SITE COMMITTEE

Seated, left to right: Mesdames: Elna J. Sasser, Eloise Pate, Arlena D. Parks and Gwendolyn Vann. Standing, left to right: Messrs: Charles I. Bland, James White, John R. Jones, and John H. Wooten, Sr. Not pictured Mesdames Doris Cherry, Rec. Sec; Elizabeth Mathews, Frances Petteway, Rosalind Wooten, Cor. Sec. Messrs: William Foy, Vice Chairman; Zeb Langston, Jr., William H. Lewis, Jr. and Leroy Clark (Deceased)

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Seated, left to right: Mesdames: Elizabeth B. Brown, Elna J. Sasser, Eloise Pate, Ernestine W. Bostic, Katie Dortch, Arlena D. Parks, Ernestine Wooten, and Gwendolyn Vann. Standing, left to right: Messrs, Eugene Brown, Chairman; Joseph B. Case, John H. Wooten, Sr., John R. Jones, Sr., Haywood P. Helley, Thomas W. Hardy and Dr. Hardy F. Cofield. Not pictured: Mesdames Doris P. Cherry, Serena Cofield, Temple Howell, Elizabeth Mathews, Retha Massey, Bernette Bordon. Messrs: John Mathews, Zeb Langston, Jr., Robert Swinson, William Foy, William Cherry, Dr. O.R. Stovall and Timothy Parks (Deceased)

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
AND
CAPTAINS

Seated: Left to right, Mesdames Ernestine Wooten, Eloise Pate, Arlena Parks, Dr. O.R. Stovall, Chairman; Mesdames Elizabeth Mathews, Ernestine Bostic, Gertrude Cox, and Theresa S. Bland. Standing: Left to right: Mr. Eugene A. Brown, Mrs. Doris L. Brown, Mrs. Thelma Horton, Mr. Norwood Foye, Mr. J.B. Case, Mr. Holland Hudson, Mesdames: Eunice Hudson, Frances O. Petteway, Dorothy W. Hardy, Dr. Hardy F. Cofield, Ms. Elna J. Sasser, and Mr. John M. Mathews. Not Pictured Mrs. Doris Cherry, Mrs. Ruby W. Whitted, Mr. Zeb Langston, Jr. and Mr. John H. Wooten, Sr., Finance Committee Secretary.

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Left to right: Dr. O.R. Stovall, Mrs. Ida Bell Aldridge, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Brown, Mrs. Mary B. Smith, Co-Chairperson, Mr. William Norwood Foye, Mrs. Dorothy W. Hardy, Chairperson, Mrs. Gertrude Cox, Mrs. Heloise C. Lofton. Not Pictured: Mr. Eugene A. Brown, Mr. Zeb Langston, Mr. E.L. Smith and Mr. John H. Wooten, Sr.

DEDICATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Seated, left to right: Mrs. Eliza S. Jones, Mr. Eugene A. Brown, Mrs. Doris L. Brown, Mrs. Theresa S. Bland, Chairperson; Mrs. Ernestine W. Bostic, Secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews, Mrs. Doris P. Cherry, and Mr. Charles I. Bland, Co-Chairperson. Standing left to right: Dr. O.R. Stovall, Mr. Frederick M. Lutz, Mr. John M. Mathews and Mr. E.L. Smith. Not pictured: Mrs. Thelma C. Horton and Rev. I.B. Horton. Insert: Mr. and Mrs. John H. Wooten.

COMPLIMENTARY ADS AND PATRONS COMMITTEE

Seated, left to right: Mrs. Johnice S. Lewis, Asst. Secretary; Mrs. Gwendolyn Vann, Chairperson Ads Committee; Mrs. Etta Hamilton, Mr. E.L. Smith, Chairperson; Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews, Secretary; Mrs. Theresa S. Bland and Mr. Charles I. Bland. Standing, left to right: Dr. O.R. Stovall, Chairman of Finance; Messrs. Zeb Langston, Jr., John M. Mathews, Dennis Coley, Clarence N. Sampson, John R. Jones and Eugene A. Brown. Not Pictured: Mesdames Serena Cofield, Annie C. Love, Frances Petteway, Doris Thompson, Messrs. Prince A. Best, Amos P. Cox, V. Lee Harris, Zeb Langston, Andrew Lofton, Robert Swinson, Thomas Thompson and John H. Wooten, Sr.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Left to right: Mrs. Dorothy Hardy, Mrs. Arlena Parks, Mrs. Ernestine Wooten, Mrs. Theresa S. Bland, Mrs. Doris L. Brown, & Mrs. Thelma C. Horton. Standing: Left to right: Mr. Eugene A. Brown, Chairperson; Mr. James G. White, Sr., Mr. Charles I. Bland, and Mr. John H. Wooten, Sr. Not Pictured: Rev. Isaac B. Horton, Atty. Earl Whitted, Jr., and Mrs. F.O. Petteway.

FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST'S HISTORY COMMITTEE

Left to right: Mr. William Norwood Foy, Mrs. Eloise Pate, Mrs. Theresa S. Bland, Church Historian, Mrs. Arlena D. Parks, Mrs. Doris R. Cherry and Mr. Charles I. Bland. Not Pictured: Mrs. Elna J. Sasser, Mrs. Ida Bell Aldridge, Mrs. Julia DeArman, Mrs. Amelia P. Felder, Mrs. Mary H. Whitley, Mrs. Gwendolyn Vann, Mr. Clarence Sampson and Mr. James G. White.

MEDIA CENTER STAFF

Left to right: Mrs. Doris L. Brown, Chairperson; Mrs. Rose B. Marks, and Mrs. Hattie G. Perry. Not Pictured: Mrs. Catherine Lutz, and Mr. Ronald Dortch.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Front row, left to right, Mesdames: Hattie G. Perry, Ruby Whitted, G. Patricia Stokes, Elizabeth B. Brown, President; Delia Howell, Arlena D. Parks, Louise W. Shealy. Back row: Messrs: John M. Mathews, and E.L. Smith.

DEDICATION PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mr. Frederick M. Lutz, Mrs. Ernestine W. Bostic, Chairperson; Mrs. Doris L. Brown, and Mrs. Theresa S. Bland. Inserts: Mr. John H. Wooten, Sr. and Mrs. Ernestine W. Wooten.

TRIBUTE'S COMMITTEE

Left to right: Mrs. Elizabeth W. Mathews, Mrs. Thelma C. Horton, Chairperson; Mrs. Elizabeth B. Brown, and Mr. John H. Wooten, Sr., insert.

CONGRATULATIONS FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
FROM
MR. AND MRS. JAMES MCIVER

A PERSONAL QUESTION TO EVERYONE
"Are you ready for the coming of the Lord?
Judgement day is nearer than you think.
The First African Baptist Church is where
I found the Lord.
May it continue to be a soul saving station
for God in Goldsboro, N.C.

Yours in Christ,
James McIver and Wife Leona H. McIver

CONGRATULATIONS
FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene A. Brown

Trustee Eugene A. Brown and Mrs. Doris L. Brown have worked dedicatedly all through the years to promote the great work of the First African Baptist Church.

Mr. Brown has served on the Trustee Board for over thirty years, and continues in this capacity. He is now serving as Chairman of the Trustee Board, a position he has held for over twenty years. From its inception, he has served as a member of the men's chorus. He was appointed chairman of the Building Committee for our new church edifice following the devastating fire on February 12, 1973. Mr. Brown was the originator of the Archives Committee. He was appointed chairman of this committee, with the honor being bestowed upon him by naming the Archives Hall in the new edifice the Eugene A. Brown Archives Hall. He has served as an official member of the various rebuilding committees for our church.

Mrs. Brown has been an active member of the Chancel Choir for thirty-one years. She serves as Historian and Finance Officer for the Sunshine Choir. She is also a loyal and dedicated member of the Annie E. Fort Sunday School Class. She has been appointed chairman of the newly-organized committee for the church Media Center. Efforts are being made by the committee to use the library to provide services that will help influence religious stimulation and christian growth in our church and community.

During the month of June, 1975, when plans for the first Crash Drive Rally were begun, five themes which represented the letters of the beginning name of our church (FIRST) were formulated by Mrs. Brown. The themes were as follows: "Forward Together We'll Build Our Church;" In Unity There Is Strength;" "Rallying For The Cause Of Christ;" "Striving To Do The Greatest Rather Than The Least;" "Through Total Commitment, We've Reached Our Goal."

Trustee and Mrs. Brown donated the chimes in our new church. They wish for our entire church family much love, happiness, and success on the occasion of this historic milestone . . . the dedication of our new church edifice to the Glory of God. May the chimes continually ring out the wonderful message of Jesus Christ through kingdom building.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE JOHN D. STOKES FAMILY

"O Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever." Psalm 107:

John D. Stokes
Scoutmaster

G. Patricia Stokes
Brownie Leader
Senior Usherboard
Social Concern
Committee
Young Adult Missionary

John T. "Jody"
Stokes
Sunshine
Choir
Junior
Usherboard
Youth
Missionary
Boy Scout

Annetta K.
Stokes
Junior Choir
Sunshine Choir
Youth
Missionary
Girl Scout

THE DAVID ROGERS FAMILY CONGRATULATIONS FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Sherry
Sunshine Choir
Girl Scout Troup

Mrs. Shirley G. Rogers
Young Adult Missionary

David, Jr.

Mr. David Rogers, Sr.
Usherboard
Laymen's League

"CONGRATULATIONS FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH" IN HONOR OF OUR CHILDREN

Lynn Stephen Kenneth
By
Attorney Earl Whitted, Jr. and Mrs. Ruby Whitted

COMPLIMENTS OF

Senior
Missionary
Choir #1
Gospel
Chorus

Usher Board
#2
Young Adult
Dept.

Mrs. Retha G. Massey

Dorenthia Ann Wells

Michael Gerald Wells
(Son-Grandson)

LIVING MEMORIAL IN HONOR OF MRS. HETTIE TAYLOR

"CONGRATULATIONS" to First African Baptist Church from Mrs. Hettie Taylor — a dedicated Missionary Worker, who has served faithfully in the prayer service and Sunday School for most of her eighty-nine years.

Missionary Department
Sunday School

LIVING MEMORIAL

FRANCES OAKLEY — PETTEWAY

"GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER" . . .

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR GOD'S RICH BLESSINGS UPON OUR DAUGHTER, OUR SISTER, AND OUR FRIEND WHO IS SERVING WITH TRUE DEDICATION/LOYALTY her past and present CHURCH APPOINTMENTS/DUTIES SINCE THE PASTORATES OF THE LATE REV. R.W. UNDERWOOD **REV. J.A. LEWIS **REV. M.W. MORGAN, and our present PASTOR, REV. I.B. HORTON:

Children's Choir — soloist RWU
Junior Choir RWU
Gleaners Sunday School Class Secretary RWU

SUMMER CHOIR JAL

CLERK MWM & BTU PROGRAM-CLASS Chairman
FIRST APPOINTED Church Auditor MWM
Soloist Choir #2 MWM & VACATION-ORGANIST for Choir #2 (2 Sundays)
Secretary Floral Club MWM
Junior Missionary Supv; & DELEGATE to SHAW UNIVERSITY workshop MWM
SOLOIST for installation of WICK'S PIPE ORGAN, EASTER SUNDAY MORNING April 1951 — "Ave Maria" MWM
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY for the 100th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM 1964 MWM (Oct. 19-25 1964)

PAST PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN IBH & PAST AUDITOR
PAST ASS'T CLERK IBH
SOLOIST CHANCEL CHOIR
GENERAL CHAIRMAN 3 — POINT PROGRAM Nov. 5, 1967 IBH
103rd Church Anniversary
The installation of our Pastor, I.B. Horton, Nov. 1966-67
The Fall Financial Rally

CHAIRMAN 86th WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME & FORIEGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION of North Carolina PROGRAM AUGUST 11-14, 1970 IBH
GUEST SOLOIST WBH&F MISSIONARY CONVENTION, Durham, N.C. CIVIC CENTER July 1977
MEMBER FINANCE COMMITTEE IBH
CHURCH CLERK IBH
**PAID FOR BY MOTHER, MRS. THOMAS T.W. OAKLEY
Twin Sister, ALICE & FRIENDS in MEXICO CITY
AND D.C., and SISTER PAULINE.

REMEMBERING THE 'OLE CHURCH, 408 WEST PINE STREET WITH TREMENDOUS APPRECIATION AND WITH GLOWING TRIBUTES TO OUR PARENTS' ROLE THEREIN:

OUR DECEASED FATHER:THOMAS TENSLEIGH WYATT OAKLEY
One of the First Deacons — Chairman
Treasurer of the Sunday School

OUR LIVING MEMORIAL TO OUR LOVING MOTHER: MRS. MARY J. OAKLEY

WE ARE THANKFUL

BY DAUGHTERS: OAKLEY-BYRD OAKLEY-KING OAKLEY-PETTEWAY
LIVING MEMORIALS TO

OUR MOTHER: MRS. MARY J. OAKLEY, Former Missionary Member
Former Victory Club President
Deaconess Board Member

OUR SISTER: MRS. PAULINE OAKLEY KING, Member BYPU, Choir Member
Secretary, Floral Club

BY
TWIN DAUGHTERS & TWIN SISTERS

Alice Oakley — Byrd (Washington, D.C.)
Frances Oakley — Petteway

MEMORIAL
IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH & ELIZABETH WHITLEY

"Never return a kindness — Pass it on!"
—Gar Westfall —

BY
DAUGHTER: HATTIE MARIA WHITLEY LOCKHART
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

LIVING MEMORIAL TO
MY BELOVED FRIENDS OF THE OAKLEY FAMILY

"WISHING YOU SUCCESS AND GOD'S CONTINUED BLESSINGS"

AMBASSADOR DAVID M. THOMAS
LIBERIA (AFRICA)

THE OLD FOLKS AND ORPHAN HOME
A GREAT HERITAGE FROM THE PIONEER MISSIONARY WOMEN
Organized 1902

Top row: Left to right: Delia Hood, Rev. C.A. Whitley, First General Manager; Fannie Whitley, Founder of the Old Folks Home, and First President, Lucy Blackman, Bottom row, Left to right: Betsy Smith, Dinah Cobb, Frances Moore Cook, Louise Hogans, Lucy Ashford and Liza Rich.

MISSIONARY WORKERS SEWING GARMENTS

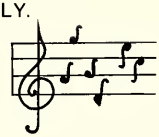
Left to right: Mrs. Anna McClarian, Mother of Mrs. Essie Brown and Mrs. Hattie McClarian, Mrs. Frances Coloshis, a resident patient, Mr. Joe Cooke, General Manager, Mrs. Emma Whitley, Mother of Mr. James G. White, Sr., Mrs. Frances Moore Cook, President; and standing: Mrs. Essie McClarian Brown.

A LIVING MEMORIAL

MRS. GOLDIE MALONE BETHEA

VETERAN SOLOIST — MEMBER, FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
RADIO WGBR — SOLOIST FOR HAMILTON FAMILY HOUR, WEEKLY.

"I'LL GO WHERE YOU WANT ME TO GO, DEAR LORD
I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO" . . .



SPONSORS:

In appreciation of your services to us as our Organist-Soloist,
MT. PLEASANT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, CHOIR #1
AUGUSTA CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, CHOIR #1

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER

Mrs. Clara Washington
Missionary — Choir No. 1
Cradle Roll — Sunday School Teacher

IN MEMORY OF

Mrs. Helen Hill Betts
Sunday School Teacher
Baptist Young Peoples Union
Baptist Leadership Classes

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED SON BARNEY JULIUS LEWIS

Barney Julius Lewis, son of Mr. & Mrs. William Hack Lewis became a member of the First African Baptist Church on June 22, 1969, where he actively participated in the Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Junior Missionary Department, Junior Choir, Church Basketball Team, and the Boy Scout Troop #102. His life was an example for the young people of the church and the community. His cooperation with the church program, dedicated service and his pleasant personality endeared him to all who knew him.

By
Mr. & Mrs. William Hack Lewis & Family
"A precious one from us has gone,
A voice we loved is still,
A place is vacant in our hearts
That never can be filled."

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MRS. ETHEL HOLT KORNEGAY

FROM
William and Ruth Holt
Son and Daughter-in-Law
And
Grand-Children

IN HONOR OF OUR DEAR MOTHER

TRIBUTE TO OUR MOTHER
MRS. NAVIE G. HOLMES

It is not what you have, nor even what you have done, which directly expresses the worth of you, Mother, but what you are to us. So . . .

Thank you for understanding
Thank you for faith and love,
Thank you Mother for daily guidance
To our God above.

Your Children,

James T. Holmes
Hubert I. Holmes
Marian H. Bass
Kenneth W. Holmes
Grover C. Holmes
*Rufus G. Holmes
Joyce H. Raye
Melba H. Smith

*Deceased

Mother has served faithfully for many years as President of the Senior Missionary Department and a member of Choir #1, the Senior Choir.

MRS. KATIE EXUM DORTCH

"Her children arise up and call her blessed." Proverbs 31:28

We honor our mother for giving us a rich Christian heritage, and for rendering fifty-seven years of Christian Service to the Free Union Baptist Church, Tarboro, N.C., the First African Missionary Baptist Church, Goldsboro, N.C. and her neighbors, both far and near.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Thomas Dortch and Renita, Goldsboro
Mr. and Mrs. Exalton Francis and Charles, Washington, D.C.
(Willie Mae Dortch)
Mr. Phillip Dortch, Jr., Woodbridge, Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dortch and Charles, Jr., Thomas, Jerry, Timothy, Goldsboro
Bishop and Mrs. William C. Dortch, Kinston, N.C.
Mrs. Geraldine Dortch Scott, Goldsboro, N.C.
Mr. Ronald Dortch, Goldsboro, N.C. and Ronald, Jr., Winston Salem, N.C.

IN HONOR OF OUR DEVOTED FATHER AND MOTHER

Mr. Charles I. Bland

Deacon

Mrs. Theresa S. Bland

Deaconess

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. Proverbs: 3:5:6
In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path.
Touch and transform our spirits with the counsel and companionship with God's divine presence." This is my prayer.

"She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." Proverbs: 31:13:28

A TRIBUTE

The thoughtfulness you've always shown,
The love you've given, too,
The happy times
Our family's known
Because of both of you.
All these are perfect reasons
For honoring you this way,
With a world of loving wishes
That will last day after day.

BY

YOUR CHILDREN
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Thomas
(Harriet)
Brenda & Melanie

GRANDCHILDREN
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Marks
(Rose)
Delores

AND SONS-IN-LAW
Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Brown
(Geneva)
Wynne Renee Cooper

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Smith
Barry (Billie) Eugenia

"PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW"

Mr. Earl Whitted, Sr.

A
TRIBUTE
TO OUR
PARENTS

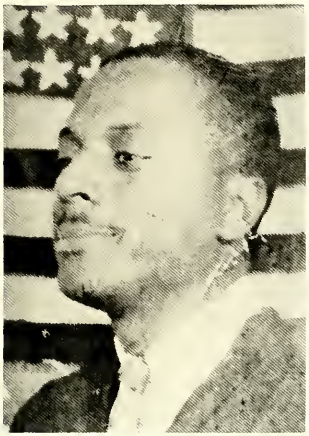
Mrs. Mable Rue Whitted
1898-1978

We pay tribute to our parents because through them the blessings of the Lord fell upon us, their children. We were privileged to have our lives molded by a Christian couple who for more than a half century nurtured us and under all circumstances freely poured forth time, energy and resources to set us on a Christian path imbued with a spirit to love God and "to live and help live".

As we dedicate our new edifice we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for all blessings and for the opportunity to maintain the bonds that tie each of us to Earl and Mable Whitted.

Thomas and Dorothy Whitted Hardy
Estelle Whitted Curley
Elizabeth Whitted Hobbs
John and Ernestine Whitted Wooten
Christine Whitted
Bernice Whitted Webster
Earl and Ruby Weaver Whitted
Elton and Rose Whitted Dublin
Holland and Eunice Whitted Hudson
Neal and Rachel Whitted Abbott
Eddie and Ruth Whitted Britt

IN MEMORY OF OUR FATHER AND IN HONOR OF OUR MOTHER



Mr. Haskell Howell
Usher

By Children
Ralph Howell
and
Barbara Howell Wilson

Mrs. Rosa Lee Howell Jones
Usher-Secretary
Usher Board

IN MEMORY OF OUR COUSIN

By
Mrs. Rosa Lee Howell Jones

Mrs. Hortense Wooten Lewis
Sunday School Teacher
First Kindergarten Teacher In The Original
First African Baptist Church

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MRS. EMMA PAULINE HOWELL HAMILTON

Her Memories are our keepsakes,
  That no one can steal.
We've learned that death is
a heartache
  That only God can heal.
We've so many beautiful memories
  That's all we have left
Of a wonderful loving Mother,
  We shall never, never forget.

****

"Sadly missed by her children."
Reuben, Jr. Janice
Richard James
John

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR HUSBAND AND FATHER

Mr. Vincent McClain
1904-1973
Usher Board

Mr. Vincent McClain was a devoted "Father" and "Husband," a good provider, hard worker, and faithful worker in First African Baptist Church, when in his good health.

The Family
Mrs. Hattie McClain Moore & "The Boys" Their Wives & Children.

A Tribute In Behalf of
The Usher Board of First African Baptist Church
By
Brother Samuel Cox, President

"For the many years Brother Vincent McClain served with me, I could always depend on his faithful support. He had unwavering love and respect for his family and the church. Anytime I asked him on different occasions to support the programs of the Usher Board, he would reply, "Let me see "Hattie" and, "The Boys." He would always come up with his financial quota everytime."

Mr. Willie Simmons
Usher

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mr. Willie Simmons
By
Mrs. Mary Simmons Johnson

Mrs. Irene Broadhurst
Usher-Missionary
Circle

IN MEMORY OF

Mrs. Irene Broadhurst
GIVEN IN MEMORY BY HER DAUGHTERS
Mrs. Daisy B. Tyner and Mrs. Irene B. Jackson

THE WOOTEN FAMILY
John Henry, Sr. Nancy Victoria John Henry, Jr.
Ernestine Whitted
"We love Thy church, O God! Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye, And graven on Thy hand".

Mrs. Missouri Whitted Toler
1869-1956
A dutiful and faithful member. For many years she served the First African Baptist Church through the Missionary Circle and spent many Tuesday's rendering service at the Old Folks Home. She always stood up for what she believed to be right and never compromised with that which she felt to be wrong in the eyes of God.

GREETINGS & CONGRATULATIONS

From
Trustee John R. Jones and Family

Above, left to right: John R. Jones Sr., Dorothy D. Jones, and John R. Jones, Jr. Not pictured: Carolyn & Bert Carr (Daughter and Son-in-law) and Children Karen and Tony

Below, left to right (Front) Erica and Victor Carr, Jr. (Back) Charlene Carr and Victor Carr, Sr.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE KING FAMILY

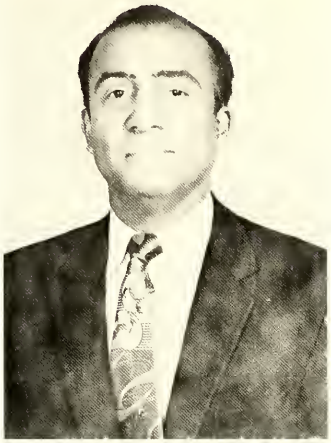
In Memory of Our Father — In Honor of Our Mother

Major King, Sr. &
Mattie King

Garland King, Sr. (Son)
Wife, Helen King

THE KING FAMILY
Major L. King, Sr. (Deceased)
Mattie King
Garland M. King, Sr.
Helen H. King
Garland M. King, Jr.
Cathy King
Garland M. King, III
Brigette I. King
Lovey Helen King
Major L. King, Jr.

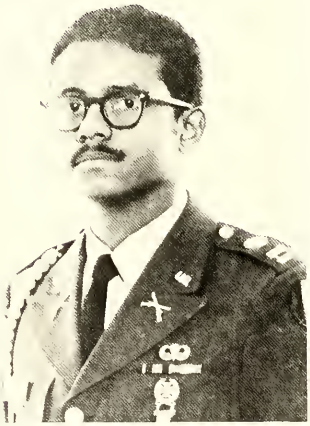
In Loving Memory of Our Devoted Husband and Father
The Harris Family



Mr. Clayton K. Harris, Sr.

Sunday School Superintendent and Faithful Church Member
Principal, West Elm Street Junior High School
Assistant Principal, Charles B. Aycock High School

Jocelyn, Eleanor, Valerie Harris
Jocelyn, Youth Choir Soloist
Eleanor, Choir Director — Organist
Valerie, Sunday School Pianist,
Youth Choir Director, Soloist



Captain Clayton K. Harris, Jr.
Sunday School Secretary

FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH PAST MINISTERS

Rev. C.J. Nelson
1864

Rev. Arnold
Williams-1866

Rev. J.W. "Father"
Dew-1887

Rev. John B.
Howell-1913

Rev. Fred M.
Davis-1916

Rev. R.W.
Underwood-1924

Rev. J.A. Lewis-1941

Rev. M.W.
Morgan-1943

FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH WIVES AND DAUGHTER OF PAST MINISTERS

The late Mrs. Beatrice E. Underwood
Wife of the late Rev. R.W. Underwood
Missionary-Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missions
Baptist State Sunday School Convention
Founder of The Ministers Wives Council

The late Mrs. Margaret Morgan
Wife of the late Rev. M.W. Morgan
Organist-Choir #1 & Choir #2
Director & Organist for the Community Male Chorus

COMPLIMENTS OF

Mrs. Majoria Morgan

Mrs. Majoria Morgan
Wife of the late Rev. M.W. Morgan
Missionary-Choir No. 1
Gospel Chorus

Miss Saraya Moore
Daughter of Mrs. Majoria M. Morgan & the late Rev. John Moore
Step-daughter of Rev. M.W. Morgan

COMPLIMENTS OF MR. & MRS. ALPHONZO PENNINGTON

Proprietors of the Green Parrott Cafe

The Green Parrott Cafe was founded by Mrs. Mary S. Pennington in 1934. In 1943 she was united in marriage to Mr. Alphonza Pennington. They worked beautifully together. They are now in their fourth business on the same street, but different sides. Failing health caused Mrs. Pennington to turn the business over to her husband, Mr. Alphonzo Pennington.

The Green Parrott Specializes in
Home Cooked Foods
401 South James Street
Phone: 735-2845

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mrs. Annie Bell Aye
1899 — 1977

By
Mr. and Mrs. Alphonza Pennington
Brother-in-law and Sister
Mrs. Dorothy Robinson (Niece)
Mrs. Mary Thompson (Niece)
Mrs. Jacqueline Handsome (Niece)
Miss Sarah Pennington (Niece)

IN MEMORY OF OUR FATHER & MOTHER

Richard H. Howell
1882 — 1964

Delia J. Howell
1886 — 1949

There are souls in the world which have the gift of finding joy everywhere, and of leaving it behind when they have gone. These departed loved ones possessed such a gift.

Sadly missed by their Children:

Mrs. Helen H. Taylor
Mr. Hadie L. Howell

Mrs. Katie H. Griffith
Mrs. Eunice H. McKoy

Mr. Levy Howell
Ms. Delia R. Howell

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF OUR
ONE HUNDRED, NINETY, AND EIGHTY YEAR OLD
DEDICATED PIONEER WOMEN

Mrs. Sue Cobb (Mama Sue)
Missionary

Mrs. Annie Hill Fort
Missionary — Choir # 1
Sunday School Teacher
Sunday School
Superintendent 1892-93

Mrs. Sudie Washington
Sasser
Missionary & Sunday
School Teacher

Mrs. Charity Best
1823-1919
Original Member — First
African Baptist Church

Mrs. Emma W. Sasser
Sunday School Teacher

Mrs. Roxie Rowe
1894-1976
Missionary — Choir # 1

MRS. DELLA JACOBS FINLAYSON

In loving memory of our sister who believed that: "Love conquers all; let us too yeild to Love." Virgil, Ecloques, X

She was a faithful Christian and served the Congregational United Church of Christ, Dudley, and the First African Missionary Baptist Church, Goldsboro, until her "home going" November 5, 1975 at the age of 95.

Mrs. Jessie Jacobs Simmons — Sister
Dudley, N.C.

Reverend Plummer D. Jacobs — Brother
Indianapolis, Indiana

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
OUR MOTHER

Mrs. Rena M. Sykes
1893-1975
Sunday School Teacher
By
Mrs. Louise Musgrave
and
Harold Musgrave

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
MY MOTHER

Mrs. Mary Bryant
Faithful Church Member
By
Mr. Lula Holmes

IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
My Foster Parents

Mr. Russell B. Wooten Mrs. Gertrude Wooten

By
Daughter
Manetta C. Stovall

IN LOVING MEMORY

Mrs. Ludie Aldridge
1888 — 1972
Choir #1
Stitch & Chatter
Sr. Missionary

Mrs. Ludie Aldridge
Mr. William H. Aldridge
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Brown (Elizabeth Aldridge)
Mr. & Mrs. William King (Gertrude King)

Mr. William H. Aldridge
1914 — 1971
Church Clerk — 1958 — 1971

DONORS

Mr. & Mrs. George Aldridge, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Amos P. Cox
Mr. & Mrs. George Aldridge, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Aldridge
Mrs. Helen Witherspoon

Mrs. W.C. Bone
Mr. Henry Simmons, Jr.
Mrs. Esther Hudson
Mrs. Esther Simmons
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wilkins

Mrs. Minnie Rouse

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR FATHER AND MOTHER

By
Rev. Richard W. Pate, Jr. & Mrs. Annie Pate Taylor

Rev. Richard W. Pate, Sr.
Supply Pastor — First African Baptist Church
Pastor, Ebnezer Baptist Church, LaGrange, N.C.

Mrs. Lula C. Pate
Dedicated Missionary
Sunday School Teacher
Old Folks Orphan Home Worker.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER AND FATHER

By
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Bass
(Celestine Pate Bass)

Mayme Horton Pate
1904 — 1952

Clarence Irving Pate
1899 — 1970

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER AND FATHER AND GRAND-PARENTS

Mr. John A. Sampson
and
Mrs. Cora Sampson

1884-1952
Deacon-Choir #1
Sunday School-Supt.

1884-1976
Deaconess, "Church-Mother"
Missionary-Stitch & Chatter
Sunday School

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou
art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil: my
cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord forever.

THE CHILDREN DONORS

SONS
Mr. Clarence Sampson
Mr. Brodie Sampson

SISTER
Mrs. Georgia Reid Thompson,
Durham, N.C.

DAUGHTERS & IN-LAWS
Mrs. Pocahontas Sampson
Mrs. Nokomis S. Cole
Mr. & Mrs.Lee Simmons (Naomi)
Mrs. Catherine S. Best
Mrs. Ethel Sampson (Daughter-In-Law)

GRAND-DAUGHTERS
Miss Marie Sampson
Mr. & Mrs. Freddie Sandford (Sandra)
Mr. & Mrs. Felix Lee (Gloria K.)
Mr. & Mrs. Reggie Parks (Beverly)

GRANDSONS
Mr. & Mrs. W.L. Gregory
Mr. George W. Gibbs

GRAND-DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
Mr. & Mrs. Willie Vines (Decorous)
Mr. & Mrs. Abner Sampson, Washington, D.C.
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Ray Sampson

GRAND-SONS-IN-LAW

FRIENDS
Mrs. Alice Wilson
Mrs. Carolyn Thompson
Mrs. Lillie Ward
Mrs. Grace Price

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDMOTHER, MOTHER & WIFE

BY
Mr. James G. White
(Son)
Children
Grand-children
Great-grand-children
"Five Generations"

Mrs. Emma Kornegay Whitley
1869-1968
Worked 86 years in the Church
Dedicated Missionary Worker
Old Folks Orphan Home

Mrs. Lula Bessie White
1899-1936
(Late Wife of Mr. James G. White)
Dedicated Church Worker

Mrs. Emma K. Whitley's Children
Mr. James G. White, Mrs. Sarah K. Whitley & Mr. Willie Hamm
Mr. & Mrs. James G. White's Children, Grand-children —
Great-grandchildren

John E. White
Mary W. Johnson
Mildred W. Staton
Joseph O. White

James White, Jr.
Leonard White
William H. White
Elizabeth W. Arrington

Dorothy W. White

Grand-Children

Yvonne P. Townes
Joseph C. Pittman
Brenda T. Smith
Joseph O. White
Alan C. Smith
Joann White

Kenneth E. White
Patrice C. White
William H. White, Jr.
Angela White
David Love
Cathy O. White

Keith R. White
Kyle R. White
Thomas Arrington, III
Regina E. White
Shane White
John White

Great-grand-children

Yvette Pittman
Michael Pittman

Kenneth White
Kesha M. White

Lucretia White

IN LOVING MEMORY

MRS. LILLIE MAE MANUEL EDWARDS FOXWORTH

Faithful Member of the First African Baptist Church
"Stitch and Chatter Club & Choir Number One"

"A vacant place has been left that cannot be filled."

Thomas R. Foxworth
Husband

Mrs. Hilda Edwards Woodard
(Daughter)
Goldsboro, N.C.

Eugene Edwards
(Grandson)
Trenton, New Jersey

Mr. and Mrs. William Mitchell
(Gloria Edwards)
New Haven, Connecticut

Rev. and Mrs. Henry White
(Hazel Edwards)Phoenix, Arizonia

George Edwards
New Haven, Connecticut

IN MEMORY OF OUR GRANDMOTHER

Your Grand Children

Carol Wiley Spotts
Lexington, Kentucky
Joseph Weldon Wiley
Madison, Wisconsin
Forrest Parks Wiley
Gales Ferry, Connecticut
Beverly Wiley Reeves
Bloomington, Minnesota
Marsha Parks Provost
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Ozia Forrest Felder
Goldsboro, North Carolina
Odist Foraker Felder
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

MRS. LEAH HENRY PARKS
— 1955

President Senior Missionary Society
Teacher and Active member Sunday School
Active in all general Church Activities.

EVER CLOSE IN MIND AND HEART

No further away than a picture,
A smile or remembered phrase,
Our loved ones live in memory —
So close in so many ways.
For how often does a sunset
Bring nostalgic thoughts to mind
Of moments that our loved ones shared
In days now left behind!

How often has a flower,
Or a crystal autumn sky
Brought golden recollections
Of happy days gone by!
Memory has a magic way
Of keeping loved ones near —
Ever close in mind and heart
Are the ones we hold most dear.

OUR UNCLE

MR. TIMOTHY L. PARKS
1909 — 1976

Member Trustee Board
President Laymen's League
Member Sunday School
Chariman several Committees
Active in Church Needs Study and planning of New Efifice

Carol
Joseph
Forrest
Beverly
Marsha
Ozia
Odist

AND

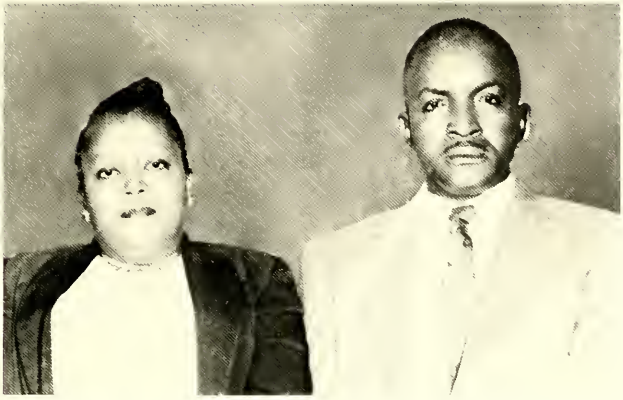
OUR MOTHER

Mrs. Georgia P. Wiley
1907-1974

Sunday School Teacher
Pres. B.Y.P.U.

Carol of Lexington
Joseph of Madison
Forrest of Gales Ferry
Beverly of Bloomington

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEVOTED MOTHER AND FATHER



Mrs. Sarah Brinson Best
1908-1976

Mr. Prince Albert Best
1906-1970

Mr. Prince Albert Best was a member of the Trustee Board. Mrs. Sarah Brinson Best was a faithful member of the Sunday School for over 40 years, Teacher, Choir #1, the Chancel Choir, Missionary Circle, served as Church Clerk, and taught in the First Negro Kindergarten held in the Original First African Baptist Church, worked in the Vacation Bible School, the Baptist Training Union, and, attended prayer meeting regularly.

By Children
Mr. Prince Albert Best, Jr., Mrs. Geraldine Best McFadden, Rochester, N.Y., Mrs. Louise Best Cooke, Teaneck, N.J., and Amos V. Best, Washington, D.C.

IN MEMORY OF OUR LOVING DAUGHTER

Kimberly La 'Triece Best
1961-1965

IN MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND
JESSE LEON SMITH

1909 — 1977

Weep not for me, but be content,
I was not yours, but only lent,
Wipe off those tears, and weep no more
I'm not dead, but just gone on before.

Your devoted wife,
Mary Barnes Smith.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER

Mrs. Charity Foy
1867 — 1961

Mrs. Charity Foy was a dedicated, stalwart pioneer missionary who worked faithfully as a member of First African Baptist Church and Best Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

She worked untiringly with the Missionary Department, the Sunday School, the B.T.U., and was one of the first workers to help organize the first Negro Kindergarten that was started by the Negro Federation of Women's Clubs in Goldsboro, N.C. The Kindergarten classes were held in the old original white framed First African Baptist Church on Pine Street.

Mrs. Foy helped other Missionary women of the church prepare a mid-day lunch for the Kindergarten children, and also helped to solicit funds to help pay the Kindergarten teachers.

Mrs. Foy's christian career of service in the First African Baptist Church was a living monument to her family, friends, and her church. She was a dynamic, devout leader who had the ability to think and enlist others to serve in Kingdom building for God. In her day, she was much of the life of First African Baptist Church. She had a great love for children.

In the late 1930's, she saw the need for more young Deacons to serve on the Deacon Board, and recommended this to the church. Five new Deacons were ordained, one of which is still serving on the Deacon Board.

The memory of your dedication, devotion,
and love will always be with us
BY YOUR CHILDREN
William Norwood Foy And Connie May Foy
Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR AUNT AND NIECE

"Sunshine passes, shadows fall,
Love and remembrance out last all,
Although the years be many or few,
All are filled with memories of you."

Mrs. Katie Thompson
Missionary

Mrs. Pauline Dove

THREE DEDICATED PIONEER MISSIONARY WOMEN

Mrs. Evelyn Hill
Senior Missionary
Choir #1
Stitch & Chatter
Sunday School

Mrs. Clara Washington
Senior Missionary
Choir #1
Sunday School Teacher
(Cradle Roll)

Mrs. Chanie Sasser
Senior Missionary
Choir #1
Sunday School Teacher
& Treasurer

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF OUR HUSBAND and FATHER

— LEROY CLARK —
1912 — 1975
Dedicated Trustee of First African Baptist Church

"Tho you have left us for the other plane
Our love & thoughts of you help us here to
walk hand-in-hand.
Your legacy is a 'beautiful' plan."

Your Respective Family,

Mrs. Nettie Smith Clark, wife
Daniel Leroy Clark & Family, son
Anne Clark Hurrey & Family, daughter
John Franklin Clark & Family, son

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF OUR DEAR MOTHER

MARY YELVERTON CLARK

Her children

DAUGHTERS
Christine C. Hagans
Carrie C. James
Laura C. Smith
Mary C. Williams

SONS
Daniel F. (Sparkie) Clark
James (Rip) Clark

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR WIFE AND MOTHER

Mrs. Sally Royal Cherry
A Dedicated Member

Mrs. Sally Royal Cherry

and
our son Bruce Gordon Cherry

Bruce Gordon Cherry
1937 — 1976

Bruce Gordon Cherry, Son of Mr. William Cherry and the late Sally Royal Cherry was a faithful member of First African Baptist Church. At the early age of three he showed an intense interest in music.

Bruce served as Musician for the Youth Choir of First African Baptist Church and St. Mark Disciple Church, Goldsboro, N.C.

Bruce became a national figure and reached his peak at Olive Harvey College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago as Director of African-American Music, Instructor of Traditional Music Theory and Director of the Olive Harvey Gospel Choir. His highest honor was received on May 27, 1976, when he was presented the Olive Harvey College Award for distinguished Community Services.

Voices
A voice we loved is still,
Places are vacant in our house
That never can be filled.
The William Cherry Family

IN LOVELY MEMORY
OF
OUR LOVE ONES

MOTHER: MRS. HATTIE BUCKRHAM LEWIS
FATHER: MR. JOE B. LEWIS

BROTHERS

THEODORE R. LEWIS
NEEDHAM B. LEWIS

FAMILY OF:

DORIS LEWIS THOMPSON
S/SGT. V.K. LEWIS, WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA
THOMAS G. THOMPSON
DORISENIA M. THOMPSON, ATLANTA, GEORGIA
INEZ P. LEWIS, WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

DEDICATED TO OUR GRANDMOTHER, MRS. MARY (MAMMA) HOLT
(Ms. Molly)
A devout christian, deaconess, teacher, and undaunted missionary
of
First African Baptist Church
FROM HER GRANDCHILDREN WITH REMEMBRANCES OF THEIR
RESPECTIVE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED

Mr. & Mrs. Isaac and Sarah H. Freeman, Deacon
Deacon & Deaconess, Missionary — Daughter
Mrs. Susie H. Borden — Daughter, Missionary
Hillary Washington — Son
Gloria L. Siler — Granddaughter
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan and Minnie Holt — Son, Missionary
Maggie, Nathan, Jr., Catherine H. (Sykes),
Estelle, Susie, Teresa Holt. (Children)
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur and Gertrude Holt — Choir Member & Missionary
Laura H. (Peoples) — Daughter
Joseph, Charlie, George, John Earl (Sons of Mama Holt).

The shades of life for the names above were drawn at Eventide —
The memories of our loved ones, will forever in our hearts abide.
The teachings and precepts of life came from a "ROOT" — strong and true.
Each day we give thanks to the MASTER, and so live that our lives may reflect YOU.

Respectively,
The Holt Family
Bettie F. Cherry, & Susie F. Monroe (Freemans')
Pauline W. Chavis (Mrs. S.H. Borden)
Mary H. Wise, Sarah H. Swindell, Minnie H. Holland,
Helen Holt, Louise H. Johnson — (The Nathan Holt's)
Charles Holt & Naomi H. Williams (Arthur Holt)

IN MEMORY OF OUR FATHER AND MOTHER

Deacon T.C. Coley

Mrs. Annie B. Coley

In loving memory of their long and devoted service to First African Baptist Church. Brother Coley served as Deacon from December 1935 until October 27, 1960. Sister Coley was a life member of the Stitch and Chatter Club and a member of Choir #1.

-By-

Sons:
Clifton Coley
Dennis Coley

Daughters:
Nannie L. Coley
Sadie C. Harris
Heloise C. Lofton
Annie C. Love

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEVOTED FATHER

1892-1966
Deacon & Sunday School Superintendent

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Matthew Sherard was a devout Christian, a member of First African Baptist Church, served in many capacities, most notable, fifty-three years' service on the Deacon Board, as chairman, and member. He served for several years as Sunday School Superintendent.

Mr. Sherard gave untiring service to his family, the church, and his community. His chief delight was in rendering a helping hand to his fellowmen.

He was married to the late Mrs. Nettie Johnson Sherard, and to this union five children were born, three girls and two boys. Three children are deceased: Mrs. Beatrice S. Stevens, Mr. Jesse Sherard, and Mr. Steven Sherard.

Mr. Sherard was appointed Assistant Manager of the Old Folks and Orphan Home during the year 1950. He worked in this capacity with the Manager, Mr. James G. White until ill health developed, forcing him to retire.

Sherard Court, one of the streets in the Little Washington Re-Development Area is named in memory of Mr. Matthew Sherard.

"Out of the dusk a shadow
Then a spark,
Out of the cloud a silence,
Then a lark,
Out of the heart a rapture
Then a pain
Out of the dead, cold ashes,
Life again."

By
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Borden (Burnette)
Mrs. Susie S. Wade — Petersburg, Va.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER
MRS. DAISY WILSON WILLIAMS
&
IN HONOR OF OUR BELOVED FATHER
MR. LEROY WILLIAMS, SR.

(The Leroy & Daisy Wilson Williams Family)

BY SONS, DAUGHTERS, THEIR WIVES & HUSBANDS
Mr. Leroy & Mrs. Mary Clark Williams
Mr. Robert L. & Mrs. Carole Williams
Mr. Richard & Mrs. Martha Davis Williams
Mr. John M. & Mrs. Elizabeth Williams Mathews
Mr. James E. & Mrs. Estelle Williams Thorpe
Mr. Delindwood & Mrs. Esther Williams
Mr. Curley O. & Mrs. Bettie S. Williams
Dr. Clarence G. & Mrs. Mildred Cogdell Williams
Mr. Ralph N. & Mrs. Anita Williams
Mr. Joseph B.T. & Mrs. Shirley Williams

Mr. John Robert Mathis

Mrs. Fisher Wells Mathis

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER & FATHER

The Family:
Doris & Luther Baldwin
Sadie L. Murray
Alice & Alvin Williams
Annie Ruth & James Carr
Margaret Mathis
Levy J. Mathis
Larry & Shelby Mathis
John M. & Elizabeth W. Mathews

IN MEMORY
OF
DEACONS AND TRUSTEES

Mr. Debra Whitley
Deacon
By
Mrs. Mary J. Whitley

Mr. A.B. Reid
1906-1973
Chairman, Deacon Board
Superintendent, Sunday School
Organizer & First Teacher of The Annie E. Fort Bible Class-Daughters of Zion-Sons of Timothy
By Mrs. Grace J. Reid

Mr. Andrew J. Sykes
Trustee
Choir #1
Sunday School Superintendent
By
Mrs. Alice S. Hogans, (Niece)

IN MEMORY OF THE COWAN FAMILY

By
GRAND-CHILDREN

Hugh Cowan

Mr. James Cowan
Deacon

Mrs. Maria Fulford Cowan
1887-1970
Deaconess — Missionary
Stitch & Chatter
Choir #1
Daughter of the late Rev. William Henry Fulford & Mrs. Esther Fulford

Major Cowan

Mrs. Beatrice C. Kornegay
Senior Choir & Senior Missionary

"WITH PRECIOUS MEMORIES OF MY WIFE"

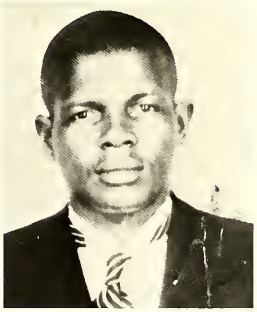
Mrs. Johnnie Pearl Daniels Wright
October 6, 1905 January 29, 1978

"She was, indeed, a faithful, understanding and loving wife, who patiently bore her sufferings. She was dependable beyond the call of duty. My partner in the ministry of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

"Precious memories
How they linger
How they ever flood my soul
In the stillness of the midnight
Precious memories untold."

Humbly Submitted,
Rev. Louis Wright

"Congratulations"



REV. LOUIS WRIGHT
Forty-four years of Preaching the Gospel of our Lord
Served as Supply Pastor for First African in 1938
Served as Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Goldsboro, N.C.
Served as Pastor of Wynn Chapel Baptist Church, Mt. Olive, N.C.
Presently serving as pastor of Peter's Tabernacle Baptist Church, Wallace, N.C. and St. Stevens Chapel Baptist Church, Goldsboro, N.C.

IN MEMORY OF OUR FATHER AND MOTHER AND GRAND-PARENTS

Mr. Jacob Smith
1886-1959
Member-Augusta Chapel Baptist Church
First African Baptist Church

Mrs. Bertha Simmons Smith
1887-1962
Missionary-Stitch & Chatter
Sunday School-Gleaners

"A TRIBUTE"

You knew all of our needs,
  Our hopes and our dreams and desires,
With a genuine interest in all that we did-
  "Two," who guided and inspired.

Your hearts were full of compassion,
  Generous, kind, and forgiving,
Both of your smiles were loving and tender,
  And added so much gladness to living.

You raised us with infinite patience,
  Tried to soothe all our troubles away,
With limitless faith in God and your children,
  And love for us day after day.

Father and Mother, you made a "home" out of a "house"
  By just being thoughtful and sweet,
With warm understanding and gentleness, too,
  That made life more rich and complete.

You were full of wisdom and strength
  Of steadfastness, insight, and graces,
Whose love we will cherish forever,
  Yes, no one can take your places.

BY CHILDREN/GRAND-CHILDREN-AND IN-LAWS

Mr. & Mrs. Charles I Bland (Theresa)
Mrs. Bernice S. Johnson
Mrs. Nettie S. Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Green (Hazel)
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Scott, Sr. (Bertha B.)
Mrs. Willie S. Darden
Mr. Jacob Smith, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Thomas (Harriet)
Mr. and Mrs. John Marks (Rose)
Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Brown (Geneva)
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Smith (Billie)
Mrs. Edna Johnson Good
Mr. Edwin Scott, Jr.

IN HONOR OF OUR FATHER

Mr. Jacob Raiford
Oldest Known Male Member Born — January 12, 1886
First African Baptist Church
1978

IN MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER

Mrs. Lizzie Braswell Raiford
1973
More Than Sixty Years of Christian Service
Barnes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Choir Number One — First African Baptist Church — Stitch and Chatter Club

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Peterson
(Polly A. Raiford)

Captain and Mrs. James R. Lanier
(Annette Dawson)

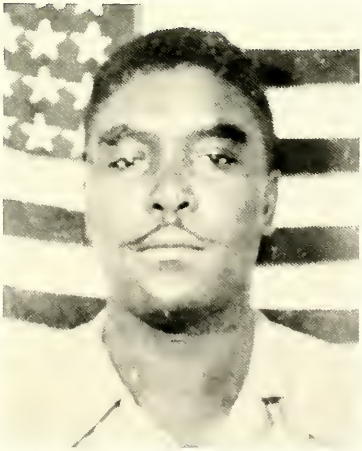
Danielle Anissa Lanier

IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED HUSBAND
&
FATHER

William C. Jones

Nothing on Earth is forever yours
Only the Love of the Lord Endureth!

Eliza S. Jones
Robert Lee Jones
Jeannette Jones



1906-1973

IN MEMORY OF
OUR HUSBAND AND FATHER

Mr. James Vann

Gwendolyn Vann and Jewel Vann

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MRS. GEORGIA ANNA GRANTHAM

1904 — 1966
Stitch & Chatter Club — Senior Missionary Dept.

BY CHILDREN

Miss Dorothy Grantham
Mrs. Sandra G. Wallace
Mrs. Gloria G. Williams
Mrs. Margaret G. Hubbard
Mr. Roscoe Grantham
Mr. Curtis Grantham
Mr. Edmund Grantham
Mrs. Clarice G. Wilder

A Loving Mother and Dedicated
Member of First African Baptist Church

IN HONOR OF OUR DEAR MOTHER

MRS. ALBERTA HOBBS
Missionary
Stitch & Chatter Club
Floral Club

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF OUR
GRANDFATHER
MR. MOSES HAMILTON
Deacon & Church Clerk
1906-1926

By
Mrs. Annie H. Williams
Daughter
Mrs. Alberta Hobbs
Daughter
Mr. Simon Hamilton
Son
Mr. James Hamilton
Son
Ms. Gertrude Hobbs
Granddaughter

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDMOTHER

MRS. EMMA DANSEY HAMILTON
Missionary

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MRS. PEARLINE SAMPSON BY MR. CLARENCE SAMPSON

REMEMBERING MY MOTHER * * * MRS. ESSIE M. MOORE

"Here's hoping that my MOTHER'S PIANO-ORGAN-MELODIES will linger in your hearts as the years go by. She served under the pastorate of the late Reverend R.W. Underwood for the Senior Choir, now known as Choir #1. Mother passed in August, 1943."

HER DAUGHTER, MRS. CLARICE MOORE SAMPSON
Clinton, North Carolina

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MRS. AMY KORNEGAY 103 YEARS OLD!

". . . for your obedience, I WILL PROLONG YOUR DAYS" . . . A PIONEER MISSIONARY OF THE 'OLE CHURCH; wife of one of the Organizers and first DEACONS, RIGDON B. KORNEGAY. She was born 1826 and vowed to "PRAISE THE LORD AS LONG AS SHE LIVED; yes even with her dying breath." (her demise 1929) Mr. and Mrs. Rigdon Kornegay were the MOTHER and FATHER of Mrs. Mary J. Oakley and GRANDPARENTS OF LATHAN T. MOORE, a member of the SENIOR USHER BOARD. Mrs. Kornegay was also an ADVISOR to the OLD FOLKS HOME, which was founded by her daughter, Fannie Kornegay Whitley.

By . . . MR. LATHAN T. & MRS. BERNICE C. MOORE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MRS. ANNA K. McCLARIAN

Missionary and Old Folks Home Worker
The McClarian and Brown Families

Mrs. Hattie McClarian (Daughter)
Mrs. Essie M. Brown (Daughter)
Mr. Tommie McClarian (Son)
Mr. James McClarian (Son)
Mrs. Louise B. Gilbert (Grand-daughter)
Mr. Richard Brown, Jr. (Grand-son)
Mr. Molten Brown, Jr. (Grand-son)
Mrs. Connie Williams (Great-Granddaughter)

IN MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER

Mrs. Julia Kornegay

Sleep on, beloved, sleep and take thy rest;
Lay down thy head upon they Savior's breast,
We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best
Sleep on! Sleep on! Sleep on!

By . . . Mr. and Mrs. Zeb Langston, Sr.
Grand-children and Great-grand-children

COMPLIMENTS OF
SHEALY'S GOLDSBORO FLORIST

SHEALY'S GOLDSBORO FLORIST — 210 Brogden St. — 735-0315
Mr. & Mrs. John Shealy — Owners & Operators

"We appreciate your business large or small, but
We appreciate your friendship most of all."
FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
The Late Col. James Walls And The Late Nettie Kornegay Walls

Col. Albert Walls
Violet Mozingo
Sarah Barnes Eatmon

PARENTS OF

Ethel Lynn
Louise Shealy
The Late Rigdon Walls

CONGRATULATIONS TO FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
OUR MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER

Pearlie Mae Campbell
By The Coley Family

James A. Coley
33° G.I.G.

Daisy Coley, Loyal Lady Ruler
Golden Circle

1888 — 1972
Senior Missionary Circle

MEMORIES OF OSCAR & HENRIETTA WOOTEN

Oscar Wooten
1891-1945
Deacon

Henrietta Wooten
1894-1939
Choir #1 — Stitch &
Chatter Club

Devoted Parents Of
Eleven Children — Valnetta, Julia Mae, Lummie, Laura Lee, Tenna, Florence, Mamie, Lucy, Oscar Jr., James and Hilda.
Fifteen Grand-children, twelve great-grand-children.
A Devoted Grand-daughter, Sue Lee Wooten King.

IN MEMORIAM
LEVI HAMILTON, SR.
FOUNDER — HAMILTON FUNERAL HOME, INC.
GOLDSBORO — WILSON
NOVEMBER 12, 1903 — JULY 18, 1967

HAMILTON FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
GOLDSBORO — WILSON

A TRIBUTE TO OUR MOTHER

MRS. LOUELLA PEACOCK

(Mother of Twelve Children — Six Living — Six Deceased)
A Dedicated Member of First African Baptist Church.

It was all the loving things she did
That meant so much each day,
Her smile, her praise, the help she gave,
And the thoughtful things she'd say.

It was all these loving things she did
Which made her very dear,
And that's why she's loved still more,
With every passing year.

In Memory of Other Deceased Family Members

"You're Always In Our Hearts"

Mr. Dial Peacock
Mrs. Blanche P. Carlton
Mrs. Hilda P. Radford
Mr. Kenneth Peacock
Mr. Edward Peacock
Mrs. Gladis Peacock

BY LIVING CHILDREN

Mrs. Sophia P. Shaw
Mrs. Louise Peacock Kennon
Mrs. Freda P. Greenfield
Mrs. Hattie Mae P. Powell
Mrs. Pauline P. Smith
Mr. Frederick Douglas Peacock

IN HONOR OF MRS. SARAH LANE

A devoted and dedicated member of First African Baptist Church.
A faithful member of the Stitch and Chatter Club.
The Oldest living member of the church.
Awarded Special Honors by the Senior Missionary Department on her 93rd birthday — June 18, 1978.

HER FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES
"The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want." . . .
Psalm: 23

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help:

My help cometh from the Lord,
which made heaven and earth,

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Psalm: 121

By
Mr. Thomas Lane and Children

MRS. LAVENIA WATSON

WE HONOR OUR LOVING MOTHER:

"Who ran to help me when I fell,
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the place to make it well?
My Mother." — Anne Taylor

For her dedicated Christian service to the Goldsboro Community and the First African Missionary Baptist Church and its related auxiliaries, especially the Sunday School, Missionary Circle and the Stitch and Chatter Club.

Henry Watson, San Francisco, California.
Mrs. Beatrice Watson Payne, Memphis Tennessee
Harold Watson, Washington, D.C.

IN MEMORY OF
OUR MOTHER, OUR BROTHER AND HIS WIFE

Mrs. Betty Evans
1882-1975
Missionary
Choir No. 1
Stitch & Chatter

By
Mrs. Ruth E. Edwards
And
Mrs. Ida B. Aldridge

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Evans
(Fannie Mae)

Mrs. Amelia Parks Felder
B.Y.P.U.
Sunday School Teacher
Daily Vacation Bible School
Senior Missionary
Very active in All Activities

A LIVING MEMORIAL
TO
MRS. AMELIA PARKS FELDER

WE CAUGHT YOUR FAITH

We saw you stand steadfast in grief
But saw no trace of unbelief.
We saw you stand unmoved by stress
But saw no trace of bitterness
We saw you stand bravely for years
But saw no trace of senseless fears.
Though you spoke not of faith's firm law
We caught your faith by things we saw.

FROM
Your Son Odist, Wife Yvonne, and Grandson, O.J.
Your Son Ozia
Your Foster Daughter, Maxine Reeves

IN HONOR OF OUR FATHER
Mr. John D. Middleton

BY
THE MIDDLETON FAMILY

DAUGHTERS
Mrs. Eloise M. Larkin
Miss Taritha P. Middleton
Mrs. Laverne M. Furlow

SONS
Mr. Harvey D. Middleton
Mr. Johnnye D. Middleton
Mr. Abraham V. Middleton
(Deceased)

Mr. John D. Middleton, Sr. is one of the oldest living members of the First African Baptist Church. He has been a loyal and faithful member for many years.

"Mr. John" as he is affectionately known, has been very active in his Church and in his Masonic Lodge until his health prevented active participation. He sang in the Senior Choir, and worked faithfully in the Church Sunday School.

Mr. Middleton's family has been active in the First African Baptist Chruch in many capacities. His son Johnnye played intermittently for the Senior Choir. His daughters, Taritha and Eloise are very active and loyal supporters in their Church, like their Father. Eloise has served as Organist, choir director and choir member. Taritha has sung in the choir faithfully for many years. Both have worked loyally in the Sunday School.

"Mr. John" remembers some of the Pastors who served First African Baptist Church. Especially does he remember those who have known him personally as the Rev. R.W. Underwood, Rev. M.W. Morgan, Rev. I.B. Horton, and his favorite Assistant Pastor and Lodge Brother, Rev. H.V. Brown.

CONGRATULATIONS

WE, THE MEMBERS OF LOVE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST AND WISH YOU MUCH SUCCESS AS YOU WORSHIP AND SERVE GOD.

CONGRATULATIONS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

Rev. William S. Epps, Minister

WE REJOICE WITH YOU FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
ON THE DEDICATION OF YOUR NEW EDIFICE
COMPLIMENT OF GOLDSBORO CHAPEL F.W.B. CHURCH
Goldsboro, N.C.

Rev. J.A. Moultrie ..... Pastor
Mr. Leslie Rowe ..... Chm. Deacons
Mr. Guffrey Coley ..... Recording Secretary
Mrs. Portia Brewington ..... Financial Secretary
Mr. Ennis Thompson ..... Church Treasurer

Saint Mark Church of Christ
Disciples of Christ

Bishop J.L. Melvin,
Pastor

700 West Ash Street

The entire church family extends Christian Greetings and Hardy CONGRATULATIONS to the First African Baptist Church upon the occasion of your Dedication.
Best Wishes for the Future!

COMPLIMENTS OF . . .
ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner W. Pine and S. Virginia Sts.
Goldsboro, North Carolina 27530

Kirby L. Hamilton, Sr.
Board Chairman

Herbert Stover, Chairman —
Trustee Board

Mrs. Hattie S. Dixon,
Church Clerk

Rev. William C. Butts,
D.D., Pastor

There are many of us still around that can visualize a little white church standing on a hill off West Pine Street. It had a belfry on top from which the bells for church services rang and tolled for deaths and funerals.

It was a one-story wooden building with a wide concrete walk that led from the street up to the church steps. A lawn grew on each side of the walk. There was a low concrete wall built around the lawn.

In the back of the church was a pump-house, latticed all around. It had four entrances shaped round with a steepled top. In this little house stood the pump that furnished the water for the church.

The bathroom facilities were outdoor toilets enclosed by white-washed planks.

The walk, up the church steps, led to two brown doubled doors that opened into a small vestibule. Inside there were two swinging doors, one to the right and one to the left. These doors led to the main sanctuary. There were stairs that led to a balcony which went across the rear and sides of the church.

The aisles, rostrum and choir loft were covered with red carpeting.

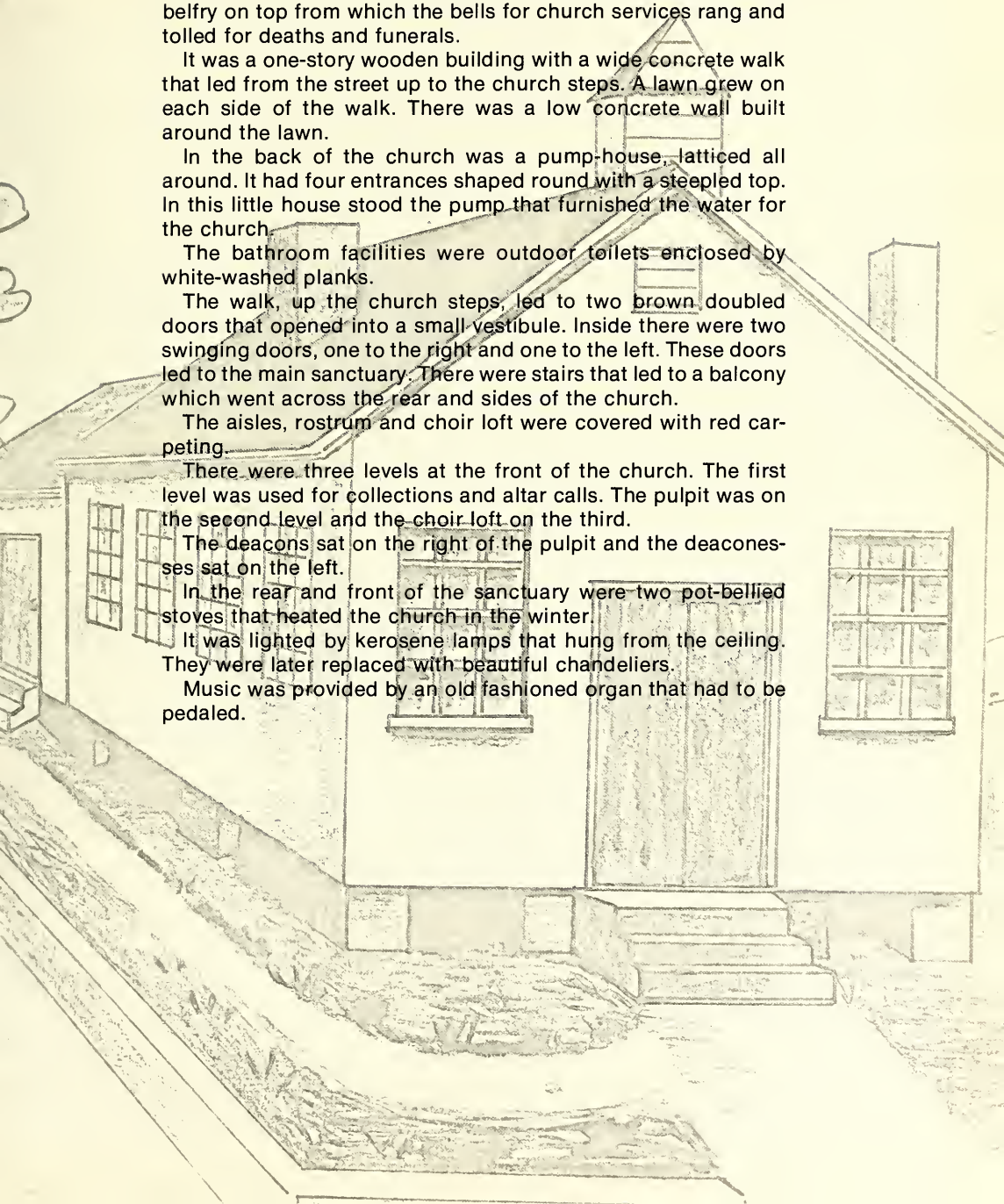
There were three levels at the front of the church. The first level was used for collections and altar calls. The pulpit was on the second level and the choir loft on the third.

The deacons sat on the right of the pulpit and the deaconesses sat on the left.

In the rear and front of the sanctuary were two pot-bellied stoves that heated the church in the winter.

It was lighted by kerosene lamps that hung from the ceiling. They were later replaced with beautiful chandeliers.

Music was provided by an old fashioned organ that had to be pedaled.



A PAST TO REMEMBER
SENIOR CHOIR — 1934

Seated: Left to right: Mrs. Goldie Williams, Mrs. Evelyn Hill, Mrs. Theresa S. Bland, Organist; Mrs. Annie Fort, Mrs. Chanie Sasser, Mrs. Eloise Pate, President; Mrs. Goldie Bethea, Standing: Mr. Charles I. Bland, Mrs. Etta Stevens, Rev. R.W. Wright, Supply Pastor; Mr. Leroy Williams, Mrs. Clara Washington, Mr. Willie Pate, and Mr. Delvia Lewis.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — 1931

Bible School Instructors; standing at the arch: Left to right: Mrs. Clara Washington, Cradle Roll Class, Mrs. Lila Lewis, Miss Estelle Whitted, Rev. R.W. Underwood, Mrs. Bertha Smith, Superintendent of the Bible School; Miss Frances Lewis and Mrs. Lummie Wooten.

IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY
INTERESTING FACTS TO KNOW
RECORDED IN THE EARLY MINUTES

The debt on the original Church structure was paid off under the pastorate of the Rev. Arnold Williams, 1864-1885, and the property deeded to Trustees of the Church in 1872.

The mortgage debt on First African Baptist Chruch's brick structure was paid off and the Chruch underwent a major remodeling under the leadership of Rev. M.W. Morgan. The Church installed its first pipe organ as a part of that remodeling project.

Many Churches throughout Eastern North Carolina trace their origin to First African Baptist Church. Some of these are: Barnes Chapel, Fork Township; Hooks Grove, Pikeville; Augusta Chapel, Brogden Township; Best Grove, Stoney Creek; Ebenezer Baptist, La Grange; Mr. Calvary Baptist, St. Stephen Baptist, and Antioch Baptist of Goldsboro.

The first Negro State Baptist Convention was organized at First African Baptist Church in 1867.

The Neuse River Baptist Association was organized at First African Baptist Church in 1867, including more than 108 Churches extending over Eastern Carolina and Virginia.

Rev. A.B. Williams (our first pastor) served for a salary of $13.00 a month, and walked from Pikeville to Goldsboro to render these services.

Mrs. Serena Dewey Washington, wife of Deacon Sam Washington, was the first Mother of the Church. She served as spiritual guidance counselor and comforter. Other duties included looking after the cleaning of the Church, preparing the linen and service for the Lord's Supper, and molding tallow for candles to be used at night services. (Electricity was not installed in the Church until 1911.) Little Washington was named for Deacon Sam Washington.

The old Church did not tolerate as much as does the modern Church. Members were excluded "from the fellowship" for such deeds as non-attendance, non-payment of dues, fighting, cursing, disorderly conduct, drunkenness, participating in a "jazz band," adultery, fornication, child bearing out of wedlock, and others. It's a part of our records and our heritage.

In 1911, the Third Sunday in November was set aside for a big rally day to raise money to install electricity in the first Church and to buy coal for the winter heating of the Church. The minutes later showed $0.50 for a bell rope and $16.00 for two tons of coal. The following minutes showed that "arrangements had been made with the electric-light man to put in the lights."

Cost of installing lights in the Church was $85.80, and the first electric bill was $1.24. On August 2, 1913, 25¢ was paid for cutting the grass (Church lawn), and 75¢ per day was voted for expenses for delegates attending the Association.

On January 1, 1916, the Church voted for a new shelter over the well to enclose it with lattice work. This pump enclosed in a lattice work pumphouse with an arch on each side is remembered by many.

WE REMEMBER WHEN

First African Baptist Church held its:

- Morning Service at 11:00 A.M.
- Sunday School at 1:30 P.M.
- Afternoon Services at 3:00 P.M. with Communion
- Quarterly on the 1st Sunday in February-May-August-November
- Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU) each Sunday afternoon at 6:00 P.M. and Evening Service at 7:30 P.M. each Sunday.

Cars were not a possession of the masses, and most of the members of First African Baptist Church living in Webbtown (East Goldsboro), North Goldsboro, Greenleaf, and Edmundson Town, walked to services at the Church. Not only this, they attended all services there by walking the distance twice.

The Sunshine Band and the Gleaners were outstanding organizations in the Church. They, along with BYPU, featured such leaders as Mrs. Fannie Whitley, Mrs. Bertha Smith, Mrs. Lula Pate, Mrs. Charity Foy, Mrs. Annie Fort, Mrs. Beatrice Underwood, Mrs. Frances O. Petteway, and directing youth of the time.

Noteworthy programs for Christmas, Easter, Children's Day, Thanksgiving, and other occasions were an expectation and participation took in all age levels of the Church membership.

Sunday School picnics which were held were looked forward to as big family events and fun for all. This activity has continued even after the burning of the Church.

The Daily Vacation Bible School lasted two weeks, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. This activity also continued until the loss of our Church edifice.

Religious Education was a regular part of the Church program. Courses were presented several times per year and certificates presented to those completing the courses.

There were regular Teachers' Meetings to study the Sunday School lessons prior to the Sunday School sessions on Sunday.

The original building was moved to the back of the Church plot when building of the brick edifice was begun. Upon completion of the new building, the old Church building was used for various activities, such as dinners, and bazaars to raise money for the new structure. The building was also used to rehearse school plays and operettas.

One of the first Negro Kindergarten schools was begun in the original white framed Church in the fall of 1934. The Federation of Women's Clubs saw the need to start a kindergarten school to help young working mothers who were not able to pay for baby sitters when they were at work. Many young children were left at home alone. The school was a great blessing in many ways for the wonderful training for the children.

Mrs. Alice Brown, Mrs. Mildred Bostic, Mrs. Mable Gordon, Mrs. Annie Hogans, other members of the Federation of Women, Missionary Women of First African Baptist Church, and women of other Churches, solicited funds to start the school. They were given permission to use the original First African Baptist Church as a Kindergarten School, which continued until the lumber and other materials were used to build a parsonage for the pastor, Rev. M.W. Morgan.

The first teachers of the kindergarten were: Mrs. Hortense (Lossie) Wooten Lewis, Mrs. Ida Peoples, Mrs. Annie Fort, Mrs. Sarah Best, Mrs. Margaret Darden Norris, and Mrs. Emma Sasser.

Some of the Missionary women who prepared a noonday meal for the children were: Mrs. Bertha Smith, Mrs. Lila Lewis, Mrs. Charity Foy, and Mrs. Maria Cowan.

Finally the building was remodeled into what is now the present Church parsonage and was first occupied by the Rev. M.W. Morgan during a part of his pastorate.

On February 12, 1973, a two inch snow had covered the City of Goldsboro, and the First African Baptist Church was destroyed in a disastrous fire. It was Goldsboro's third biggest fire. The Church was pronounced by firemen as a complete lost, origin unknown.

This brick building was erected in 1924. It had been remodeled extensively a few years ago. An air conditioning unit, costing $1,400, had been installed, and a pipe organ under the administration of Rev. M.W. Morgan was installed, and several other improvements were made.

Origin of the fire had not been determined at mid-morning, but it started in the rear of the building, and some Church officials expressed belief that it may have started in the boiler room.

Deacon C.I. Bland, Chairman of the Board of Officers, said: "The damages were expected to run to at least $300,000." He said the loss was partially covered by insurance.

The leaping flames spread rapidly through the roof of the two story brick structure as firemen battled the blaze with temperatures at about 16 or 17 degrees. It took the firemen several hours to bring the blaze under control.

On the following Wednesday, Deacon C.I. Bland and Deaconess Theresa S. Bland made available a room in their home for Church meetings. The first meeting was a dedicated prayer meeting. The second meeting, we met with the insurance adjuster. The third meeting, after devotions, the Pastor, Reverend Isaac B. Horton, outlined the entire program for rebuilding the Church. He ap-

pointed several committees and explained their duties. Mr. John H. Wooten, Sr., was appointed Chairman of the Site Committee. Volunteers were added to look for a suitable site to locate the new edifice, February 18, 1973. This in reality was the beginning of the restoration of the First African Baptist Church which was to arise from the ashes of the burned Church.

On the following morning, Deacon C.I. Bland, who was then Chariman of the Board, and E.A. Brown, Chariman of the Trustee Board, with the Pastor, made arrangements with Mr. Bryan Sutton, Director of WAGES, to use the former Virginia Street School in which the First African Baptist Church could hold their services. On Sunday, September 3, 1978, we celebrated our last Communion Supper in that facility.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR DEACEASED MEMBERS
ABIDING LOVE

It singeth low in every heart
We hear it each and all —
A song of those who answer not,
However we may call;
They throng the silence of the breast,
We see them as of yore —
The Kind, the brave, the sweet,
Who walk with us no more.

'Tis hard to take the burden up
When these have laid it down;
They brightened all the joy of life,
They softened every frown;
But, oh, 'tis good to think of them
When we are troubled sore!
Thanks be to God that such have been,
Although they are no more.

More homelike seems the vast unknown
Since they have entered there;
To follow them were not so hard,
Wherever they may fare;
They cannot be where God is not,
On any sea or shore;
What e'er betide, Thy love abides;
Our God forever more.

John White Chadwick

GREETINGS, FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

First Baptist Church Senior Choir
3440 Minnesota Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C.

IN MEMORY OF

Mrs. Mable Rue Whitted
By
Mrs. Bernice Whitted Webster

CONGRATULATIONS TO FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

From

Mr. & Mrs. Burgess Clark
(Delores Lydia Clark)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES

From

Daughter Margaret (Peggy) Carroll
SUEZ COURT #149, DAUGHTERS OF ISIS

Fenwood, Mass.

FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
BEFORE — AND — AFTER THE TRAGIC FIRE
February 12, 1973

THE BURNING FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
TEMPORARY WORSHIP PLACE
VIRGINIA STREET SCHOOL

THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES

Mrs. Thelma C. Horton
(Wife of Pastor Horton)
Mr. Robert Swinson, Sr. (WOKN)

Mrs. Theresa S. Bland
Deaconess and Chariman of
DEDICATORY BOOKLET

Rev. E. Leon Smith, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Goldsboro

Mr. Eugene A. Brown, Chairman
Trustee Board
Dr. O.R. Stovall, Chairman
Finance Committee

BUILDING PROGRESS OF THE NEW FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

. . . progress

. . . PROgress

. . . PROGREss

. . . PROGRESS

TIMES WE SHALL REMEMBER

Pastor and Members Watch Raising of Steeple

Architect Presents New Church Keys to Trustee Chairman Eugene A. Brown

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Following the burning of First African Baptist Church, we the members have attempted to squarely assess our situation. We have put our shoulders to the wheel and worked in an effort to complete the great task which had befallen us.

For five and one-half years, we have worked-carrying on many Special Projects, some, for the financial glory, but all for the Spiritual and Moral Glory of the Church, its members, and the community.

For the most outstanding financially rewarding Special Projects we remember are: The Gospel Sing "The Harps of Zion" for the Rebuilding Fund sponsored by the Special Project Committee. This project was a great financial success with the total amount of $5000.00 being raised.

This project chaired by Mrs. Gertrude Cox with Deaconess Rose Smith as Co-Chairman; Mrs. Rose Bland Green, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Annie C. Love, Chariman Ads Committee; Mrs. Margaret Jones, Co-Chairman Ads Committee; Mr. Frank Edwards, Co-Chairman Ads Committee; other committee members are as follows: Mrs. Serena Cofield, Mrs. Dorothy Hardy, Mrs. Margaret Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Swinson, Mrs. Doris Thompson, Mrs. Ruby Whitted, and Dr. O.R. Stovall, Finance Chairman. This was one of our most successful efforts.

Following very closely were the Board of Officers and the Deaconesses who on their special days sponsored several worthwhile projects such as, yard sales, sale of electric light bulbs, and sponsoring speakers for special fund raising rally days.

Some of the other special projects, beginning with our very first, was a Rededication Service at the site of the burned church giving our loyalty along with submitting our pledges and monies toward rebuilding.

The litany was written by Mrs. Ernestine Wooten and that service strengthened our faith and work for the job we were to do.

The Sunshine Choir through their annual fund raising project was under the direction of Mrs. Ernestine Wooten, plainly demonstrated "A Little Child Shall Lead Them."

The Youth Fellowship was quite active. The youth of St. Luke United Methodist Church invited our youth to their activity. They wanted to do something and so decided to work together to sell dinners. They joined us in our first Youth Day Service singing in the Choir, Ushering, or, anywhere there was a need.

The youth also participated in an all night Retreat at The First Presbyterian Church. The youth of the Church serve on the 3rd Sunday of each month. They also sponsor a Prayer Breakfast during the Homecoming festivities. This breakfast is held with Eastern Chapel Church Youth — the year after the church burned. The youth helped in sponsoring a very successful "Youth Revival."

The Laymen's League has sponsored a banquet and a Family Breakfast annually.

The Stitch & Chatter Club, The Missionary groups, The Choirs, Gospel Chorus, and other organizations of our church still work and remind us in our efforts that:

"Out of these ashes is Rising a New and Greater First African Baptist Church," and,

"Forward, Together, We'll build our church"

"In Unity There is Strength" "Rallying For the Cause of Christ" "Striving to do the Greatest Rather Than the Least"

"Through Total Commitment, We've Reached Our Goal"

SPECIAL BUILDING FUND DONORS

In Memory of Mr. Haskell Howell
By
Mr. Ralph Howell
And
Mrs. Barbara Howell Wilson
Washington, D.C.

In Memory of Mr. Jesse Hobbs
By
Indiana Air Pollution
Control Division

In Memory of Mrs. Della Finlayson
By
Rev. Plummer D. Jacobs
Indianapolis, Ind.

Jackson Chapel First Baptist Church
Wilson, N.C.

J.D. Pike Motor Company

Jenkins Chapel Baptist Church
Sneads Ferry, N.C.

Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Jones

Mr. Floyd Jones

Mrs. Laurena Jones

In Memory of Mrs. Bertha Smith
By
Mrs. Bernice S. Johnson

Mr. James Johnson

Mrs. Louise Johnson

Mrs. Mary Johnson

Rev. & Mrs. Samuel Johnson

Mrs. Bettye Joyner

Mr. & Mrs. Nolan R. Kelly

In Memory of Rev. M.W. Morgan
By
Mr. William (Bill) Kemp

Col. & Mrs. Howard Kimbell

Mr. & Mrs. Garland King, Sr.

Lady Love Chapter #6 O.E.S.

Mr. & Mrs. Lainworth

Mr. & Mrs. Marlowe Lancaster
Mariato, Calif.

Atty. Martin Lancaster

Mrs. Sarah Lane

Mr. Sylvester Lane

Mr. Thomas Lane

Mrs. Mable S. Langston

Mr. F.L. Larkin

Mrs. Eloise Lee
Columbia, Md.

Sp/4 Lee & Mrs. Felix Lee

In Memory of Mrs. Della Finlayson
By
Mr. Jacob Lee

Les Soeurs Club
By — Ms. M.L. Hoskins

Mrs. J.A. Little

Mrs. Bernice Little John
Asheville, N.C.

Little Rock Church of Christ
Pikeville, N.C.

Mrs. Berry Lloyd

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Lloyd
Robersonville, N.C.

Mr. Edward Lee Loftin
Kinston, N.C.

THE USHER BOARD

MOTTO: "Service Is Our Motto, Love for the Church We Hold Sacred"

The Usher Boards of the First African Baptist Church have rendered commendable service all through the years. The women of the Church have worked diligently with the men on the Usher Boards. There are three Usher Boards: The Senior Usher Board, Usher Board No. 2, and the Junior Usher Board.

Rev. Fred M. Davis, who pastored in the old white-framed Church, saw the need for Ushers. Some of the men were asked to serve. The first Ushers were Deacons Isaac Freeman and John A. Sampson. Later, Mrs. Maggie Holt and Mrs. Irene Reid Taylor served during the daytime services and Messrs. Clarence Sampson and Albert Draughorn during the night services.

In 1924, Rev. R.W. Underwood became pastor and organized an Usher Board. This was the first formally organized Usher Board. At first, the Ushers were appointed, Mr. Levi Canady was elected as president and Mr. Lee Ander Staton, secretary, Mr. Staton served from 1924-1930.

Mr. Levi Coley succeeded Mr. Canady as president and was later elected as vice-president, since he was unable to attend all of the meetings.

In 1927, we moved into our new brick Church (This structure burned February 12, 1973). Following the late Mr. Canady, Jr., Jesse Simmons was elected president and was succeeded by Mrs. Bertha Wright in 1929.

Mr. Joseph Sanders was elected as president, in 1930, and Miss Annie Mae Smith secretary. She served until her death in 1935.

In 1931, Mr. Frank Pope was elected as president and served until he moved from Goldsboro in 1933.

On the fifth Sunday in May, 1932, the State Usher Board was temporarily organized at the First African Baptist Church. In July, our Usher Board met with other Usher Boards throughout the State to formally organize the State Ushers' Convention.

In 1933, Mr. Earl Whitted, Sr. was elected as president and Mr. T.C. Coley, counselor. In August, they were elected as deacons, but continued to serve as ushers.

Mr. Leroy Williams was elected as president following the late Mrs. Annie Mae Smith, Mrs. Bill Ida Green was elected as secretary, serving until 1935. Mr. Williams was succeeded by Mr. Otis Lynn.

In 1938, the Junior Usher Board was organized, with Mrs. Bill Ida Green as Director.

Mrs. Sarah B. Best re-organized the Junior Usher Board in 1940.

Mr. Zeb Langston, Sr., served as president in 1945, during the pastorate of Rev. M.W. Morgan.

In 1946, Mr. William Cherry was elected as president, and Mrs. Louise Shealy, secretary. She served until December 1948.

In 1949, Mr. John H. Wooten, Sr. was elected as president and served faithfully until 1952. Mr. Bill Ida Green continued to serve as secretary until 1951, when Mrs. Rosa L. Howell was elected.

During the years, 1952-77, Messrs. William Cherry and Samuel Cox served intermittently as president.

Mr. Zeb Langston, Sr. served as treasurer from 1960-72 and Mr. Henry Peterson from 1973-74.

Mr. William Cherry, the immediate past president, served untiringly as president. Mr. Samuel Cox, the present president, is dedicated, living up to the Ushers' Motto.

The present active members are: President Samuel Cox, Vice President (1976) Lathan Moore, Messrs. William Cherry, Henry Peterson, Edward Sears, V. Lee Harris, Zeb Langston, Sr., Levi Howell, David Rogers, Willie Nowlin, Frederick Williams, Maxwell Williams, and James Jones: Juniors: Byron Bass, Byron Best, Bruce Smith, Rodney Williams, Stephen Whitted, Anthony Stovall, Phillip Cox, and Kenneth Whitted; Mdmes. Mattie Bass, (Secretary), Mary S. Johnson (Oldest Member), Rosa L. Jones, Heloise Lofton, Hilda Manuel, Gertrude Hobbs, Etta Hamilton, Edna Lewis, Brenda Holley, Ruby Whitted, Rosalind Wooten, Patricia Stokes, and Deloris Williams.

Many other persons have served faithfully: Messrs. John Henry Wooten, Jr., Lee Ander

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Deceased members who served were: Messrs. Bruce Coley, Levi Canady, Henry Davis, Haskell Howell, William Johnson, Leroy King, Joseph Sanders, Johnny Thompson, Jesse Simmons, and Russell Wooten, also, Vicent McClain, and Mdmes. Bill Ida Green, Naomi Best, Carrie Knight, Lela Hobbs Artis, Lummie W. Simmons, Retha Stackhouse, Annie Mae Smith, and Minnie Brinson Wooten.

First African Baptist Church can always depend on the Usher Boards to greet visitors warmly, invite them to register, and see that they are comfortably seated. The Ushers also support the Church in its financial obligations. Several new members have joined recently.

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REFLECTIONS

In my invisible chest of collections,
Beautiful rays appear — Reflections —
Of a church organized in 1864.

First African Baptist is endowed with many generations,
Who left a legacy which has spread through segments of our nation.
A legacy built upon divine belief, courage, and strength,
Coupled with love, hope, and truth to a continuing length.
Remembering the teachings and joys of yester-years,
Gives rise to patience and faith, and abandons possible fears.
In today's world so filled with complexities and strife,
We salute the efforts of our foreparents who paved for us the "True life."
A life filled with riches which with money nor worldly possissions cannot be bought,
But a life nurtured with love, and outstretched hand, and pureness of thought.
A Thought to inspire others, a message from above soaring upward and out —
This enduring philosophy instilled, is what our new church is all about!
So, we lift hands and hearts to God in gratitude, and pray that we may ever be —
Living symbols of the past, mindful of the present, and future attitudes and actions, anchor communion with Thee!

— Naomi Holt Williams —

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NOTE OF THANKS

We, the Pastor, Rev. Isaac B. Horton, and Members of First African Baptist Church offer our sincere appreciation to all Pastors, members of other churches, fraternal and civic organizations, merchants, businesses, and friends near and far who gave unselfishly of their time and resources in making this "Historical Souvenir Book" possible.

We offer special thanks to the Senior Members, middle-aged who so patiently arranged appointments to aid with historical information, and young members, who contributed to the historical contents of this book.

The section of Church families living and deceased, and families of friends will be helpful to all of us in remembering and cherishing the memory of the great Heritage of First African Baptist Church.

We give special thanks to all Churches who offered and gave their assistance immediately after the church was destroyed by fire.

Special thanks is extended to First Baptist Church, Madison Avenue Baptist Church, St. Luke United Methodist Church, Love Memorial Baptist Church, St. Mark Church of Christ, Antioch Baptist Church, and Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.

Our deepest appreciation to Mrs. Rachelle R. Richardson who used her artistic talent to help us design the title page.

We sincerely appreciate the drawings of the original Church Santuary by Deacon Charles I. Bland and Mrs. Geneva Bland Brown.

Our deepest appreciation to Mrs. Catherine E. Brewington for her assistance in preparing, typing, portions of this booklet for publication.

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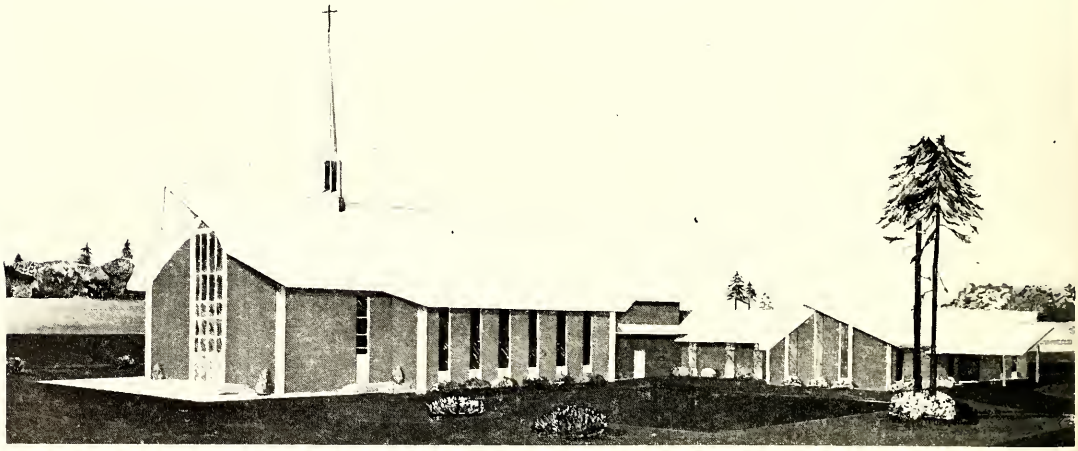

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DEDICATORY AND HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES

November 20-26, 1978

THEME: " A PAST TO REMEMBER — A FUTURE TO MOLD"

Monday	November 20, 1978	Appreciation Service
Tuesday	November 21, 1978	Youth Service
Wednesday	November 22, 1978	State Baptist Convention Night
Thursday	November 23, 1978	Thanksgiving Service
Friday	November 24, 1978	Rededication Service
Saturday	November 25, 1978	Youth Day

Homecoming Reception

Sunday	November 26, 1978	HOMECOMING AND DEDICATORY SERVICES

Sunday School
Morning Worship
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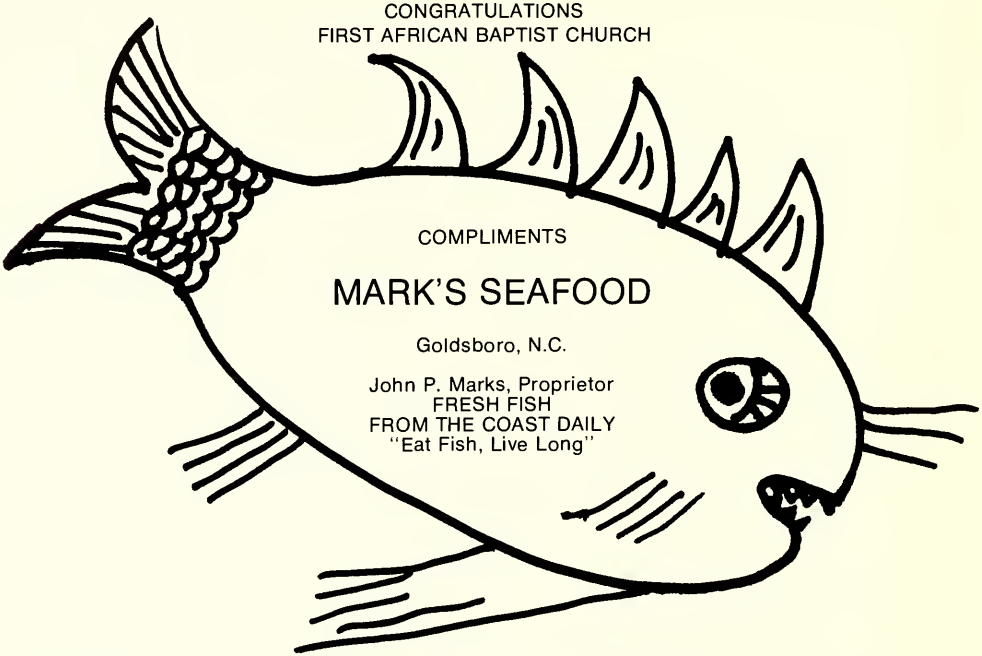

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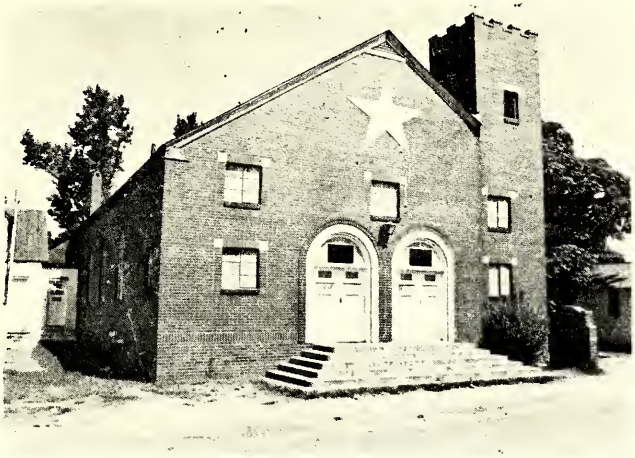

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Youth Day	1st Sunday
Pastoral Day	2nd Sunday
Mission Service	4th Sunday
Prayer Meeting	7:30 Wednesday Night
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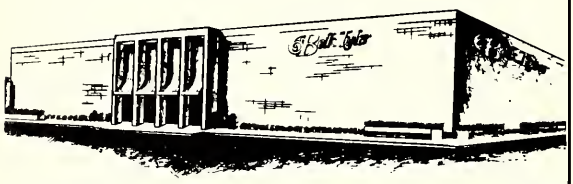

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HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Five and one-half years ago, the First African Baptist Church was totally destroyed by a devastating fire. Since that time, we have continued with faith and perseverance to work to build a Greater First African Baptist Church under the leadership of our Pastor, Reverend Isaac B. Horton.

We have kept the Faith and through prayer, God has helped us to see the new Church Edifice completed. As we reflect over the past our theme, "Out of These Ashes Shall Rise a New and Greater First African Baptist Church" now looms before us a glorious reality.

God has truly raised from the ashes of the old brick church a new and greater beautiful edifice which we are preparing to joyfully dedicate to His glory and Honor the week of November 20 — 26, 1978.

As we enter our new Church, we are striving to experience a new surge of unity, growth in membership, and warm christian fellowship.

Because of reaching this great milestone, we find ourselves over-joyed, inspired, hopeful, grateful, humble, expectant, more constrained and willing than ever to "Let God Have First Place In Our Lives." We will preserve and secure our faith that we may live up to the Theme, "A Past To Remember, A Future to Mold." — working to mold a better future here on Earth in the spirit of Christ to let service to God and our fellowman be the impelling motive of our lives.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE DEDICATION YEAR — 1978

During the Dedication Year, all Departments, Auxiliaries, and Members of First African Baptist Church have worked zealously through "Faith in God" and by "God's Grace" to accomplish the great task and goals set before them for the year 1978.

All have striven to the utmost and strengthened their efforts to attain their goals by sponsoring dynamic programs of spiritual and financial endeavors. Each tried to live up to one of the Mottos used during a "Crash Drive" for the building funds — "Beat Your Best."

Officers Day was held on the fifth Sunday in January, 1978.

The Pastor's Aide Club sponsored a Special Program on the first Sunday in February, 1978, celebrating Pastor Isaac B. Horton's Eleventh Anniversary.

Choir Number one sponsored a special fund raising activity featuring Musical Groups on the Fifth Sunday in March, 1978. The new Gospel Chorus of First African Baptist made its first appearance on this program.

The Youth Fellowship held its Annual Program on the third Sunday in April 1978 with Mr. Ronald Dortch as the speaker for the Sunday Morning Service.

The Chancel Choir program was to be held on the fifth Sunday in May.

The Youth Missionary Department sponsored an Annual Rally Day on the second Sunday in June.

The Sunshine Choir sponsored a Building Fund Rally on the fourth Sunday in June.

The Usher Board's Special Fund raising day was to be held on the fifth Sunday in July.

The Laymen Leagues' Special Day will be held on the fifth Sunday in September with the men of the Church taking charge of all church activities for the week beginning with prayer service on Wednesday, a special banquet on Saturday, and a special service on Sunday; with Mr. N.G. Perry the Special Speaker.

The Deaconess Board's Annual Rally Day is to be on the Second Sunday in October 1978.

The Stitch and Chatter Clubs Annual Day will be the fifth Sunday in November.

The Week of November 20 — 26 — 1978 will be a Great Week of Dedication and Homecoming with the "Great Dedication Day" services on Sunday, November 26, 1978.

Let us all remember that God has helped us to reach the goal of completing our new Church, but there is much more that we can do and must do to "Mold A Greater Future" to perpetuate the Great Heritage of First African Baptist Church.

We must bear in mind that the race does not belong to the swift, not to the strong, but to him who endureth to the end.

We close this year with thankful appreciation of the dedicated souls who kept the faith of the faithful. We as a group of baptized believers have not reached the full accomplishments of our designs, we look forward to greater improvement in all areas of the church. We will press on until the last remnant of time with the knowledge that the power of the church emanates directly from Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

First African Baptist Church must keep moving onward and upward to highter spiritual heights.

Thus this be our concluding prayer:

> "Almighty God impart thy strength that we may ever love Thee with our whole heart and soul and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves."

Reaching our goal, rebuilding the Church has definitely required the untiring efforts of all members. Those who gave their time, talent, financial contributions, and spiritual guidance. The Church is still prospering and continuing to carry God's work to His glory and Honor, now we are triumphantly elated, as we have been blessed with God's grace to see our new church . . . Amen

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NEW FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATED BY GREAT MARCH

MARCH COMMEMORATED Ordeal — Several hundred members of First African Baptist Church led by Rev. Isaac B. Horton, made the journey from the former First African Baptist Church location on W. Pine St. to the newly constructed home of the Church on Harris St. After a fire destroyed the Church on February 12, 1973, church services were held at Virginia St. School five and a half years.

GATHERING FOR SERVICES — The Congregation and visitors attending services gather outside the new building site which will be formally dedicated in ceremonies November 20-28-1978. The Pastor, Rev. Isaac B. Horton spoke on "The Great First African Fire" and how the great tragedy resulted in a victory for the church and its people.

CUTTING THE RIBBON — Eugene A. Brown, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Building Committee for First African Baptist Church, performs the Ribbon-Cutting ceremonies opening the new Church on Harris St. The first service in the new church was held on Sunday September 17, 1978.

NEW FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
A GREAT MARCH COMMEMORATED OPENING CELEBRATION

Theme: "A Past To Remember, A Future To Mold"

Several hundred loyal dedicated members and friends marched from the original site of First African Baptist Church to the new church building on Harris Street Sunday morning, September 17, 1978, ending an ordeal of more than five and one-half years for the congregation of First African Baptist Church.

The Pastor and members have struggled to raise funds to build a new church since February 12, 1973, when the former church edifice was destroyed by fire.

Work on the new church was begun soon after the "Homecoming Celebration on November 28, 1976, when the Ground-breaking ceremonies took place, and work on the new Harris Street site was started and the new edifice completed by September 17, 1978 at an estimated cost of $750,000.

Sunday, September 17, 1978 has been described as a "Great Day" and an exciting happy day marked by a wonderful crowd of elated members and well-wishers who marched and sang the Theme Song of the Church — "Great Day First African's Marching, God Has Built Our Fallen Walls."

The new Church building contained a capacity audience of approximately 600 members and friends for the first official service.

At 9:45 A.M., the congregation marched from the old church site to the new one in a line more than a block long led by the Pastor Rev. I.B. Horton, and Mrs. Thelma C. Horton.

A motorcade of members who could not walk the distance, traveled along with the marchers.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was performed by Mr. Eugene A. Brown, chairman of the church's building committee and Trustee Board was the high-light of ceremonies opening the new edifice on Harris Street.

Special guests attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony included; Mr. Conrad Wessell, Architect; Mr. James Daniels, Contractor; Goldsboro Mayor Ben Strickland, and Mrs. Sarah Lane, the oldest member of the church-age-93.

A pulpit Bible donated by American Saving's and Loan Association was presented to Rev. Isaac B. Horton by Mr. Eugene A. Brown on the front steps of the Church. The name of the Church is engraved on the front of the Bible and a dedication page is included on the inside.

A Special Contribution to the progress and enhancement of the church was made by Mr. William Cherry, Church Custodian. Rev. I.B. Horton commended Mr. Cherry for working continuously during the past five and one-half years to help prepare the building site for use. Mr. Cherry donated a pew, and also provided the Church with a Grand-piano at a minimal cost, specially built for his late son, Bruce Cherry.

The day's sermon, preached by Rev. Isaac B. Horton was titled, "The Great First African Fire," related how great and tragic events change the course of history for the better.

The Church fire can be compared to the "Crucifixion of Christ," Rev. Horton explained, in their untimely and strange nature, yet, the end result is in victory and joy.

During the morning service, the church gained four new members. On the spiritual front, First African Baptist Church has experienced a new surge of unity, growth in membership and warm christian fellowship.

The extended History of the new Church began when Rev. Isaac B. Horton preached the first sermon in the new Church edifice.

The Pastor and members are looking forward to the official Dedication Services to be celebrated the week of November 20-26-1978 and to be held jointly with the Homecoming celebration.

The Pastor and Members of First African Baptist Church have rededicated themselves to keep moving onward and upward to higher spiritual heights, to continue to mold lives for Christ — to promote the Kingdom of God on Earth.

Special thanks is extended by the Steering Committee of the Historical Souvenir Book to all chairpersons and members who worked loyally and faithfully on the different committees: Mr. Eugene A. Brown, Chairman Building Committee; Dr. O.R. Stovall, Chairman Finance Committee; Mr. E. L. Smith, Chairman Ads Committee; Mr. John R. Jones, Ads Committee; Mrs. Gwendolyn Vann, Patrons Committee, Mrs. Ernestine W. Bostic, Chairperson, Program Committee, Mrs. Dorothy W. Hardy, Chairperson Memorials Committee, Mrs. Frances O. Petteway, Ads and Patrons' Committees; Mr. John H. Wooten, Sr., and Mrs. Ernestine W. Wooten for commendable aid in editing and organizing the Souvenir Book.

The Pastor Rev. Isaac B. Horton and Members will continously pray for God's Grace and Richest Blessings to Abide with Us and all peoples in the world that this may be a better peaceful world in which to live.